Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-182
Friday
18 September 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-182 *18 September 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrians Charge 'Impasse' in Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Al-'Allaf Says Team May Return for Instructions *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Israelis Propose Unofficial Weekend Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
'Arafat Adviser on 'Stalemate' in Talks *[MENA]* 3
Lebanon, Israel Discuss Joint Military Committee *[Beirut Radio]* 4
Israeli Proposal on Self-Government *[JORDAN TIMES 17-18 Sep]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

Groups Urge Strike To Protest Autonomy 'Plot' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 9
Habash Urges Struggle Against Autonomy *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 17 Sep]* 10
PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Views Progress of Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Sep]* 11
PLO Statement on Sabra, Shatila 'Massacre' Cited *[Algiers VOP]* 12

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Meeting Sets 4th Quarter Production Goals *[AFP]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

President Mubarak Discusses Foreign Policy *[AL-AHRAM 13 Sep]* 14
Daily Remarks on President Mubarak, al-Asad Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 19
'Extremist' Arrested for Attacks on Tourists *[AFP]* 19
Housing Projects Under Way in Hala'ib, Shalatin *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Development Plans To Be Drawn Up *[MENA]* 20

Morocco

USFP, Istiqlal, OADP Want Election Postponed *[Paris International]* 20
UNFP to Boycott Elections *[MAP]* 20
Cooperation Agreements Signed With Belgium *[Rabat Radio]* 21
Polisario Defector Hakim Appointed Ambassador *[Rabat Radio]* 21

Sudan

UN Delegation Tours Juba, Leaves for Kenya *[SUNA]* 21
Joint Statement Issued *[SUNA]* 22
Islamic Forces Reportedly Detain Juba Citizens *[SPLA Radio]* 22
Al-Bashir Reportedly Expresses Support for Iraq *[INA]* 22
Message From Iraq Received *[INA]* 23
Opposition Figure on Water Project, Struggle *[MENA]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Arrives *[WAKH]* 24

Kuwait

Current, Planned Military Maneuvers Detailed *[KUNA]* 24
Iraqi Authorities Disrupt Return of Property *[KUNA]* 24

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Discusses GCC Meeting, Somalia, Bosnia *[SPA]* 24
Supreme Council Condemns 'Memorandum of Advice' *[SPA]* 24
Cabinet Agrees To Double Contribution to Bank *[SPA]* 26
New Justice Minister Appointed by Decree *[SPA]* 26

Yemen

National Conference Seen as 'Trial of Regime' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Sep]* 26
Conflicting Reports on Death of Speaker's Guards *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Sep]* 26

IRAQ

'Serious' Rift Between 'Udayy, Ramadan Reported *[Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution]* 28
'Udayy Calls Execution 'Fruitless' *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 28
Government Said Preparing New Military Offensive *[Voice of the Islamic Republic]* 28
Opposition To Meet, Set Up Rival Government *[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 16 Sep]* 28
Plan To Kill Opposition Figures Abroad Described *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 29
Iranian 'Agent' Killed; 2 Detained in Break-In *[AFP]* 29
Rebel Radio Reports Services Diminishing *[Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution]* 30
Officials Meet With Southern Governorate Leaders 30
Prime Minister in al-Basrah *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Information Minister in al-Qurnah *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
Russian 'Nationalist' Delegation Meets Officials 31
Confers With Ramadan *[INA]* 31
Received by Hammadi *[INA]* 31
'Aziz Discusses Arab Affairs With Algerian Group *[INA]* 31
Army Service for Kurds Born in 1974 Postponed *[INA]* 31

ISRAEL

Government Reacts to Claims of Impasse With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Possible U.S. Intervention Seen *[DAVAR 18 Sep]* 33
No Official Comment on Rabin-al-Asad Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Der'i, Rabbis Support Rabin Golan Policy *[Jerusalem TV]* 33
Poll Finds Majority Opposes Return of All Golan *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 18 Sep]* 34
Rabin Urged To Put Jerusalem on Talks Agenda *['AL HAMISHMAR 17 Sep]* 34
Qian Says Sale of Nuclear Arms in Region To Stop *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Pledge Called 'Mistranslation' *[HA'ARETZ 18 Sep]* 35
Russian Media Official Yegor Yakovlev Arrives *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Official Evaluates French Policy in Peace Talks *[HA'ARETZ 17 Sep]* 36
State Budget Slashed by 185 Million Shekels *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
August Consumer Price Index Rises 0.8 Percent *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37

JORDAN

Kingdom Said Possible Host of Iraqi Opposition *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 17 Sep]* 38
King Reportedly To Receive Israeli Arab Group *[Jerusalem TV]* 38

Papers on Need for United Arab Stand on Peace *[Amman Radio]* 38
'Izzat Ibrahim Departs After Surgery 16 Sep *[AL-RA'Y 17 Sep]* 38

LEBANON

Al-Sulh Urges Tackling Election-Caused 'Rupture' *[VOL]* 39
Hizballah Said 'Deceiving Itself' About Elections *[Voice of the South]* 39
Junblatt on Meeting Talabani, 'Protection Zones' *[Shanayh VOM]* 39
'Occupation' Unit Assumes Border Strip Position *[Shanayh VOM]* 39

SOUTH ASIA

India

Leaders Arrested for Antinational Speeches *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Supreme Court Upholds Sharma's Election *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Outlawed JKLF Kills Two Defense Personnel *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Detention of Two Officers by Pakistan Protested *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Diplomatic Ties To Be Established With Brunei *[Delhi Radio]* 40

Iran

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Assembly Continues 40
Khamene'i Meets With Commanders *[Tehran Radio]* 40
Nateq-Nuri's Address Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Assembly Issues Resolution *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Editorial Discusses Government's 'Shortcomings' *[KEYHAN HAVAT 2 Sep]* 41
Bulgarian, Polish Ministers Visit on 16 Sep 43
View Trade Expansion With Vahaji *[IRNA]* 43
Bulgaria's Aleksandrov Meets Velayati *[Tehran TV]* 44
Memorandum of Understanding Signed *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Poland's Arendarski, Nezhad-Hoseynian Meet *[IRNA]* 44
Cooperation Protocol Signed *[Tehran Radio]* 44
IRNA, IRIB To Open Offices in Kabul *[IRNA]* 44
Daily: U.S. Applying Pressure Over Central Asia *[IRNA]* 45
Turkish Interior Minister's Visit Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 45

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrian negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf left the 17 September session of the peace talks only 90 minutes after it began, saying that the talks had reached "an impasse," according to Jerusalem radio. Al-'Allaf charged that the Israeli negotiators lacked "authority to make any progress." At a subsequent news conference, reported by Damascus radio, Al-'Allaf said it was the duty of the United States "to make sure that no deadlock resulting from the intransigence of either of the two parties to the talks will threaten the peace process." He also indicated that, should the situation continue, the Syrian negotiating team would return to Damascus for more instructions.

Iraq

Opposition sources claim that the government of Saddam Husayn is "caving in" under "internal economic and political pressure and international isolation." High-level officials are divided over domestic and foreign policies and "the way to run the country," Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution reports. A "serious dispute" reportedly has developed between, on the one side, Saddam's son 'Udayy and former Defense Minister Husayn Kamil, and, on the other side, Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, prompting rumors that Saddam is pressuring Ramadan to resign. Voice of the Iraqi People also reports that "the outcast regime is gripped with panic and political chaos."

Jordan

Jordan could host an Iraqi opposition conference as a result of a recent meeting between King Husayn and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader Jalal Talabani, London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI reports, citing AFP. Iraqi opposition sources in London and Amman say that the king met with Talabani, the leader of one of the two main opposition factions in Iraq, on 14 September in London and that the king may have given his permission for the Iraqi opposition to hold a conference in Jordan.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syrians Charge 'Impasse' in Talks

TA1709180692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Telephone discussion between Shmu'el Tal in the Jerusalem studio and correspondent Arye Gus in Washington—live]

[Text] [Tal] Is there really a crisis in the talks with Syria? The Syrian delegation walked out of the talks a little over an hour ago sounding quite pessimistic. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus is here on the telephone from Washington. Good evening.

[Gus] Good evening.

[Tal] Is there really a crisis?

[Gus] Yes, there is definitely an atmosphere of crisis in the Washington talks between Israel and Syria. After 90 minutes of discussion today's meeting was brought to an abrupt halt by the dramatic exit of Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation. Leaving the meeting, al-'Allaf said that the early termination of today's meeting clearly indicated that no progress had been made. Our fears that the Israeli delegation had no real authority to talk peace and discuss all the important elements such as territory or withdrawal were proven true. We take a very grave view of this situation. The peace process has reached an impasse, al-'Allaf said.

In today's meeting, the delegations were supposed to discuss what the Syrians described as the issues related to the territorial dimension and an Israeli withdrawal. At the same time, the delegations were to discuss the issue of peace, its nature and characteristics according to the Israeli viewpoint. The Syrians accused the Israeli delegation of lacking authority to make any progress in this field, claiming that all Israel really wanted was to achieve its own goals, or in other words to extort what it wanted from the Arabs. Al-'Allaf also accused Israel of seeking to drive a wedge between the Arab delegations by hinting at progress on the Syrian track. The Syrians called on the United States to step in to salvage the talks, or more precisely to pressure Israel to toe the Syrian line, since the United States is supposed to be a honest broker. Al-'Allaf said that if this situation continues, it will be impossible to go on discussing issues that are irrelevant, not directly tied to the peace process, or that only pertain to the one side of the equation that Israel wishes to discuss.

The Syrians expressed the opinion that all the issues must be dealt with and they hope that the Americans will guarantee that there will be no break in the talks on account of the Israeli threats. Al-'Allaf is due to hold a news conference in about 90 minutes.

Upon leaving the negotiation hall, Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation, denied that there was a crisis. He said that there were ups and downs, and that the talks should not be judged on the basis of every single meeting. Clearly there will be disagreements when discussing the range of issues involving the nature of peace and the territorial dimension. As far as Israel is concerned, the talks will continue next Monday. As for the Syrian demand for U.S. intervention, Itamar Rabinovich said he did not think that the United States should intervene, noting that he was happy with the role it had played so far, that of an honest broker that was gently and lightly helping the talks along.

[Gus] Let us now hear Muwaffaq al-'Allaf's assertion that the peace process is in danger of running aground:

[Begin recording] [al-'Alllaf, in English] I think you can judge from our early suspension of the meeting that there was no progress whatsoever. Our fears that the Israeli delegation does not come here with any authority to talk about peace and to tackle all the important elements and issues, which are contained in our document—they have no delegational authority whatsoever. It seems to talk about territory or the withdrawal from our territory. All what they have authority to talk about is what are the Israeli demands and preconditions. So we consider that is a very serious situation. It is already now....[changes thought] The peace process is I think subjected to the threat of deadlock and of impasse.

[Rabinovich] No, there is no crisis in the talks. Very little progress, or rather no progress, was made today. I said yesterday, after we made some relative progress, that these talks cannot follow, and certainly not be conducted, according to daily fluctuations. I would definitely not rush to talk about a crisis. [end recording]

Al-'Allaf Says Team May Return for Instructions

JN1809053892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has announced that the talks are now facing a dead end, and that coming out of this dead end is possible only if the Israeli side changes its positions, or if the two cosponsors of the peace conference—especially the United States—play their role in advancing the talks.

At a press conference last night, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf asserted that in spite of this, the Syrian Arab delegation remains committed to the peace process, and is waiting for new stands from the Israeli side or for what the cosponsors of the conference might do.

He added: However, we will certainly not wait forever without discussing anything or hearing anything about Israeli commitments. If we see that this situation will continue for a longer period in vain, then we will go back to our government to receive more instructions.

Al-'Allaf added that three weeks of talks within this sixth round have ended fruitlessly. He noted that the 10-day

recess, during which the Israeli side held consultations with its government, proved to be useless and unjustifiable.

Al-'Allaf added: It has now become clear and evident that all expectations about a so-called change in Israeli policy, regarding efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement to the Arab- Israeli dispute, were nothing more than illusions.

He went on to say that Israel still clings to its recalcitrant position toward almost all basic elements necessary for a just and comprehensive peace. Israel continues to reject the principle of land for peace, which reflects the spirit of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and continues to refuse to implement Security Council Resolution 242 as a basic principle regarding the impermissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, he said.

Al-'Allaf added: In spite of this, Israel brags about the objective of reaching a comprehensive peace. When it does that, its delegation makes the violation of this principle a precondition for negotiations with the Arab parties.

He further noted: It has become clear that the Israelis have not come to Washington to negotiate a just and comprehensive peace, but rather have come to try to divide Arab ranks by their insistence on making separate deals and reaching partial solutions.

The head of the Syrian Arab delegation added that the peace challenge embodied in the Syrian document has still not been answered. He added that Syria is committed to establishing a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Syria is also committed to the full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the principle of returning Arab territory in exchange for peace.

Al-'Allaf went on to say that such peace can never be achieved without full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. He added: Proceeding from its firm belief that peace is indivisible, Syria will absolutely reject any partial withdrawal or separate peace.

Answering a question on whether or not Syria is going to ask the cosponsors of the conference to carry out their role and intervene to advance the peace process, al-'Allaf said: It is the duty of the conference's cosponsors, especially the host of these talks, to make sure that no deadlock resulting from the intransigence of any of the two parties to the talks will threaten the peace process. Therefore, I think that it is the duty of the cosponsors to do this, without even being asked.

Israelis Propose Unofficial Weekend Talks

TA1809071292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with Syria, says the negotiations are not on the verge of an actual crisis. In an interview with our Washington correspondent Arye Golan, Professor Rabinovich says the Arab delegations are trying in unison to drag the U.S. Administration into the negotiations. We are not flustered by the deliberate Syrian attempt, he adds, and we are responding in the same vein. [A related report by Arye Golan on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 18 September refers to Muwaffaq al-'Allaf's statement that "the Israeli delegation does not have a mandate from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to discuss withdrawal," in response to which Rabinovich is cited as saying: "We do have a mandate, and our actions are completely coordinated with the prime minister and the cabinet in Jerusalem."]

Political sources in Jerusalem also say the crisis in the talks with Syria was expected, because Syria is trying to induce the United States to introduce papers of its own to the negotiations. The sources believe the Palestinians pressured Syria not to make too rapid progress in the negotiations. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in the past days, the Americans have indeed increased their involvement in the talks.

AFP-Washington reported last night that to prevent a stalemate, Israel has proposed to Syria to hold unofficial meetings over the weekend [passage omitted].

'Arafat Adviser on 'Stalemate' in Talks

NC1809104392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0714 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Washington, 18 Sep (MENA)—[passage omitted] Referring to the Palestinian-Israeli talks, Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and general coordinator for the Palestinian delegation, has affirmed that the stalemate reached in the talks with the Israeli side stems from the Israelis insisting on the same policy followed by the Likud government before the Labor Party came to power with Yitzhaq Rabin as prime minister. It was hoped that Rabin would make a qualitative change in the Israeli stand during the talks.

In an interview with MENA's Washington correspondent, Dr. Sha'th said that the Israeli side still insists on rejecting any discussion of Jerusalem or talk about the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

He clarified that this rejection extends to include any attempt to discuss partial or gradual withdrawal from the occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, despite Israel agreeing, in the Camp David accords, to withdraw to security positions to be agreed upon later.

He said the Israeli side also refuses to discuss another essential point, perhaps one of the most serious to be presented in the talks—the "geographic borders" for the authority of the Palestinian transitional government during the temporary transitional stage.

Nabil Sha'th clarified that this stand, on which the Israeli negotiators insist, led the Palestinian side to demand

implementation of Resolution 242 during every stage of negotiations, not only in the final stage. This happened after it became clear that the Israeli refusal to discuss the essential issues meant only one thing: the absence of a reference on which to base the talks.

He said that the Palestinian side's objective is to make Israel recognize that the spirit and concepts of Resolution 242 should prevail from now on, so that no measures will be proposed that would contradict it, especially when they get to the stage of negotiations over the final status of the occupied territories.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th affirmed that the Palestinian side does not want negotiations to reach a dead end, but at the same time it insists on avoiding accepting any situation in the current stage that might conflict with the principles of Resolution 242 in the final stage.

He clarified that this forces the Palestinian negotiators to vehemently reject any attempt to exclude the issue of Jerusalem or the occupied territories or avoid discussion of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the talks will resume on 21 September in an attempt to discuss an agenda that would be agreed upon with the Israeli side.

The Palestinian official affirmed that any real progress requires American intervention in the next few days.

He said efforts are being exerted at the same time to bolster the Arab negotiators' stand in the talks.

He pointed out that the five-way meeting of the Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese, and Palestinian foreign ministers will be held in New York on 22 September, on the sidelines of the new gathering of the UN General Assembly, to coordinate stands and review the peace process and talks.

Lebanon, Israel Discuss Joint Military Committee

NC1809071392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Lebanese and Israeli delegations to the peace negotiations in Washington yesterday continued discussing the Israeli proposal to set up a joint military committee.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, the head of the Lebanese delegation, said: The two delegations again discussed the Israeli proposal to form a military working team. We told them specifically that the ideal way to achieve progress is to tackle security problems within the framework of the two delegations' meetings, not through subcommittees.

Shammas added: The Lebanese side and the Israelis are seeking to reach a formula that will achieve this, while remembering that security problems cannot be tackled in a vacuum or in isolation from the main objective of ensuring the Israeli withdrawal. He expressed hope that progress would be achieved next week, but refused to reveal any more details. He said: I prefer not to negotiate with the Israelis through the press.

Uri Lubrani, one of the two leaders of the Israeli delegation, admitted that no progress was made and described the talks as a constructive dialogue, the outcome of which could become known by the end of next week. He reiterated Israel's commitment to its proposal to set up a military committee.

Israeli Proposal on Self-Government

JN1709082892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17-18 Sep 92 pp 4, 5

["Full Text" of Israeli proposal on Palestinian Interim Self-Government Arrangements handed to the Palestinian delegation on 14 September, together with "text" of accompanying letter addressed by Elyaqim Rubinstein, Israeli chief delegate to the Middle East peace talks, to Palestinian chief delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, dated 13 September—all figures and letters indicating paragraph designations as published]

[Text] I am writing to you on the eve of the opening of the second half of this round of negotiations. It is our profound desire and hope that this round will end with mutually satisfactory positive results, which will enable all of us to feel that we have embarked on the road toward our goal of agreement on Interim Self-Government Arrangements [ISGA]. Our challenge, in our view, is to find the right balance between introducing very significant change in the life of the Palestinians in the territories; and not prejudging the nature of the permanent status negotiations which are to begin in the third year of the ISGA period or closing options for the future, and while not affecting Israeli basic interests. We believe, and would hope to be able to convince you, that our concept is structured to achieve this balance. We would like to try to view together with you our proposals, which have been elaborated on in our responses to your questions, in this light. It may assist in promoting the discussion and the negotiations.

In our meeting of Sept. 3, 1992, I tried to explain, with certain detail, our concept. And indeed, we felt that before dealing with the modalities for general elections, we should be able to agree on the nature of the elected body, which will be elected by the Palestinians of the territories from among the Palestinians of the territories, in accordance with the agreement.

The proposed Palestinian Administrative Council (PAC), while obviously not having the powers of a state, such as primary legislation, will have significant powers and responsibilities, which will apply to the majority of the walks of life of the Palestinians in the territories, and will include relevant infrastructure aspects within the territories presently under Israeli military administration. It will have the power of promulgating regulations (by legislation); an independent court system will function too. Thus, the change will be very significant;

however, the overall territorial geographical issue is to be discussed in the permanent status negotiations, and this also should be made clear. If this is mutually agreed, we may be able to move from all encompassing ideas and discussions to the detailed negotiations.

You posed to us the question of whether the elected officials of the Palestinian Administrative Council will, per our proposals, be in fact "officials of the Israeli military government." They will not: they will be accountable to their electorate, and will have the full ability to function in the framework of the agreement. The powers reserved by Israel or matters which request coordination and cooperation are designed to serve necessary purposes, hopefully without adversely affecting the functioning of the PAC.

(The PAC will have the power to make decisions in the various aspects of its agreed responsibilities. Our enumeration of the proposed spheres was not meant to "drown the ideas in a sea of words," it was aimed to assure that this proposal carried with it a very real promise and potential. We stated also that the coin has another side, which points to Israel's interests such as security and Israelis in the territories and other aspects of peaceful coexistence.

We attach an informal document in which we tried to elaborate on some of the above. We will readily respond to any further questions or clarifications.

You shared with us a draft framework agreement. We tried to study it with openness and good will. Unfortunately, the basic point which prevents it from becoming an acceptable basis for negotiations is the overall all-encompassing underlying territorial concept, which cannot be part of the Interim Arrangements, because it only leaves one option for the permanent status. We could further explain our above position as necessary.

We also read your memorandum of Sept. 3, 1992 and studied it carefully. It also contains some of the above difficulties, concerning the difference between ISGA and permanent status. We believe, however, that if we try to move together towards the actual negotiations, a lot can be achieved, in a wide spectrum of issues, including some of those which are mentioned in your memorandum, although not in the full context and terminology used by you.

You referred to the notion of experts. We believe that experts are welcome and can be of assistance in specialised negotiations. However, modalities concerning them should be mutually agreed, as all modalities in the Madrid formulas and our own procedural agreement. In our view, this issue should not complicate the work ahead of us or overload the already loaded and difficult issues on our table, by additional aspects which may be of a sensitive political nature. It should be further discussed, meanwhile being addressed on an ad-hoc basis as necessary along lines formerly suggested by us, without prejudice and while trying to identify experts who do not pose problems beyond their expertise.

Finally, we look forward to your comments on your agenda ideas as well as on committees.

You referred to the need to respond to the desires and hopes of our constituencies. It is our belief that this is achievable.

Again, we are hopeful that the negotiations in the coming two weeks will be conducted in the best adtmosphere, and mutually satisfactory results will be attained.

Sincerely

E. Rubinstein INFORMAL CONCEPT OF THE INTERIM SELF-GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENTS BUILDING BLOCKS FOR AGREEMENT

A. Negotiating framework

1. Goal of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians of the territories and terms of reference:

Agreed Interim Self-Government Arrangements for a period of five years. Beginning the third year, negotiations on the permanent status will take place. On the basis of Resolution 242 and 338. The above is based on the Madrid invitation and is suggested in its framework.

A sequence of three basic elements is suggested:

(1) Agreement

Our current negotiations should culminate in an agreement containing all relevant elements, and issues necessary to achieve the goal of Interim Self-Government Arrangements.

The agreement should be concluded and signed by the negotiating partners, namely, the Israeli and Jordanian-Palestinian delegations. This will grant the agreement its international standing and will assure its acceptability to all concerned.

The agreement we envisage may include a number of documents: the main agreement on the relevant principles, and annexes to deal with special matters (various spheres, elections modalities etc).

(2) Interim Arrangements

The basic idea of the interim arrangements, for a limited period of time, is that they should create the proper atmosphere for the negotiations on the permanent status, it must not presage or prejudge the permanent status itself.

There are different concepts of the permanent status, and they should be raised and negotiated in the proper time and forum, meanwhile, the concept of the permanent status must remain undefined and the interim arrangements should leave all options open for the agreement on the permanent status.

The interim arrangements will create a significant change in the reality of life of the Palestinians of the

territories. The nature and contents of this change is the essence of the present negotiations.

(3) Permanent status negotiations

It is agreed that the permanent status negotiations and the negotiations between Israel and the Arab states, will take place on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338.

The permanent status negotiations should include Jordan; the Madrid invitation relates to the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and to the Palestinians who are part of it, and 242 deals with states, as is clear from its language.

The above formulation was achieved on the basic understanding that Resolution 242 has different interpretations.

Thus, the deliberations of all aspects and matters of these resolutions, pertaining to the permanent status negotiations, will not be addressed in the context of the present interim arrangements' negotiations.

2. Preparatory and supportive measures for building confidence

Israeli its [as published] has shown it's good will by implementing some confidence building measures in the territories including releasing of prisoners, easing restrictive and preventive measures and revoking expulsion orders.

It was agreed to create a joint working group on human rights parallel to the negotiations. This working group could discuss other mutual confidence building measures.

This working group should be established together with other working groups which will deal with issues directly connected to the Interim Self-Government Arrangement (see below).

Israel has agreed to a review of the legal systems in the territories, in the famework of a joint working group on legal matters which will deal with various legal aspects of the interim arrangement (see below).

Israel agreed also to allow, as appropriate, access to relevant information and various public records:

—Access to the population registration will be provided in the context of understanding on the modalities of the elections.

—Access to other records will be provided in the context of understandings in the negotiations concerning the relevant, agreed powers and responsibilities and spheres of operation of the Palestinian Administrative Council, as appropriate. (see below)

As stated, Israel is ready to implement other confidence building measures in the territories in the context of mutuality, and in anticipation that the negotiations will be held in a peaceful atmosphere, free from threats and acts of violence.

3. Working groups

In the framework of our joint deliberations, bearing in mind the need to enhance our negotiations, we proposed the establishment of several joint working groups to deal with some of the substantive issues of the ISGA, even while other matters are being discussed-in the plenary.

These working groups may deal with the following matters (e.g.):

Legal matters, including: Review of the legal systems in the territories; legal aspects of the ISGA such as Administration of Justice; Local Police, etc.

Concept of the Interim Arrangements; Jurisdiction; Structure; Powers and responsibilities; Spheres of operation; Economic matters pertaining to movement of persons and goods etc.

Election modalities (following agreement on concept)

4. Timetable

Israel has proposed that a time frame will be set to the negotiations, which will be held in an agreed consecutive stages, starting with the basic concept of the Interim Self-Government Arrangement.

Continuing negotiations, dealing without delay with the details of the Interim arrangements, in the working groups or in the framework of the Palestinian track, should enable us to reach without delay the target dates that we suggested in our "Further ideas and proposals" of August 21, 1992.

5. The Interim Self-Government Arrangements

1. Jurisdiction

The overall territorial-geographical issue should be dealt with in the permanent status negotiations.

The concept of jurisdiction during the interim period of self- government arrangements should be powers-and-responsibilities oriented based on the four General Principles contained in our informal outline of 20.3.92—namely:

—Establishment of a Palestinian Administrative Council which will administer the affairs of the Palestinians of the territories in the agreed spheres of operations that affect their own lives, in accordance with the agreement.

—Spheres of operation that affect Israel and the interaction between Israel and the territories, and between Israeli citizens and Palestinans in the territories, should be handled by the Palestinian Administrative Council in coordination and cooperation with the designated organs of the government of Israel.

—Jordan's participation in the interim arrangements can be of the benefit for all.

Thus;

The Palestinian Adminstrative Council will wield its executive powers and responsibilities, and will have relevant infrastructure aspects within the territories presently under Israeli military administration.

Note:

The powers and responsibilities of the Palestinan Administrative Council to be agreed upon, will not apply to the Israeli security forces and authorities, nor to Israelis in the territories or other Israeli-related aspects.

2. Palestinian Adminstrative Council (PAC)

The organs of the Interim Self-Government Arrangements should reflect the agreed administrative-functional characteristics of these arrangements.

Thus:

A Palestinian Administrative Council will be elected by the Palestinians of the territories from among the Palestinians of the territories, to discharge those powers and responsibilities which will be assigned to it, acording to the agreement.

The Palestinian Administative Council will, in the framework of its assigned powers and responsibilities, be accountable to its Palestinian electorate.

3. Structure of the Administrative Council

The Palestinian Administrative Council will be one, executive, freely elected, administrative functional body.

The number of its members will be 15, in accordance with the spheres of operation that will be operated by it.

The Palestinian Administrative Council will select its own chairman from among its members, and allocate the spheres of operation among its members.

In the framework of the ISGA and in accordance with the agreement... independent courts of law will function.

4. General powers and responsibilities of the Administrative Council

The Palestinian Administrative Council, as an administrative functional body, will have the following executive, general powers and responsibilities:

(1) Regulations and Bylaws

Power to promulgate regulations in its spheres of operations, subject to the agreement, including arrangements for coordination and cooperation with Israel, as well as Jordanian related aspects.

(2) Policy planning and decision making

Power to engage in policy planning in those spheres of operation assigned to it in accordance with the agreement.

Power to decide on administrative matters relating to the operation of their spheres of operations, such as:

—budget and financing.

—allocation of functions.

—supervision and audition of its operations.

Powers, as a body, to enter into contracts and sue and be sued.

5. Spheres of operation

The detailed list of the spheres of operation of the organs of the Palestinian Administrative Council and the powers and responsibilities that will be discharged by them, is contained in our Informed Outline of August 20, 1992. It is suggested that these spheres be thoroughly studied. We feel that agreement on them, followed by implementation, will constitute major positive steps in the life of the Palestinians of the territories.

6. Cooperation and coordination

A. In our Informal Outline of August 20, 1992, we envisaged mechanism for cooperation and coordination between the Palestinian Administative Council and designated organs of the Israeli government, during the Interim Period. These mechanisms are not meant to derogate from the agreed powers of the Palestinian Administrative Council.

The cooperation and coordination concept is based on four basic assumptions:

—The operation of some of the suggested powers and responsibilities by the Palestinian Administrative Council, has dimensions related to security which should be addressed jointly, due to the overall Israeli responsibility for security.

—Some spheres of operation of the Administrative Council should be operated in cooperation and coordination with Israel as a necessity. These spheres include, inter alia, the movements of persons and goods between the territories, Israel, Jordan and other countries; distribution of vital imported products; operating common infrastructures and joint vital systems (e.g. roads, sewage, electricity).

—Some spheres of operations should be handled in cooperation and coordination for the benefit of the populations of the territories and Israel, these spheres are connected mostly to the various economic activities.

—Improper handling of some of the powers and responsibilities may adversely affect and prejudge the outcome of the permanent status negotiations.

The main target of this cooperation and coordination concept is, therefore, to avoid creating areas of friction and conflict and enable a smooth operation of the Interim Self-Government Arrangements.

B. Special issues which may contain cooperation and coordination aspects, such as infrastructure issues concerning water and land uses, can be discussed as appropriate.

7. Jordanian related issues

The traditional connections between Jordan and the Palestinians of the territories and Jordan's involvement in the walks of life in the territories, require the participation, assistance or support of Jordan in the interim arrangements in such spheres as:

—Participation, as appropriate, in the review of the existing legislation in the territories taking into account the Jordanian legislation still in force in the territories.

—Aspects of economic activities in the territories, including the banking and monetary systems.

—A suggested role concerning the local police force.

—Special issues, including (e.g.) religious matters, as necessary.

—Taking part in the high liaison and coordination committee and in other relevant liaison committees.

Note:

The above is, of course, open to further deliberations and discussion and subject to agreement by all concerned.

8. Residual powers

As stated above, "certain areas that affect Israel's basic rights and interests will remain, in the framework of residual powers, Israel's responsibility and will be operated by Israel" whether specified in the agreement or not.

For special notice:

(1) Security

The overall responsiblity for external and internal security and public order, will remain in Israel's hands (Hague regulations of 1907).

(2) Foreign relations

Foreign relations, being an attribute of a state, will not be exercised by the Palestinian Administrative Council.

Foreign connections relevant to the administration of the spheres of operation of the Administrative Council will be negotiated as appropriate, and will be discharged by the sail organs according to the agreement and in coordination with Israel.

(3) Israelis in the territories

All Israelis in the territories, security forces and civilians, will be under Israeli jurisdiction.

The Administrative Council powers and responsibilities will not apply to the Israeli towns and villages nor to security locations in the territories.

Note:

Matters of common concern regarding the contacts between the population in the territories, will be dealt with in the negotiations.

C. Modalities for establishing the ISGA and for implementing the interim agreement .

This paragraph deals with the actions that should be taken following the agreement on the Interim Arrangements.

1. Elections

The elections modalities will be negotiated after the basic concept will be agreed upon.

The concept of the general elections envisaged by Israel was described in our informal outline of August 20, 1992, as follows:

"The Administrative Council will be elected by the Palestinians of the territories from among the Palestinians of the territories, in accordance with the agreed modalities.

The elections will be free, based on the preservation of the rights of peaceful assembly, free expression and secret ballot, and appropriate measures to prevent disruption and disorder.

Israelis will not participate in the elections for the Administrative Council.

2. Assignment of authorities, powers and responsibilities

Following the election of the Palestinian Administrative Council, the agreed authorities, powers and responsibilities will be assigned to its agreed designated organs.

3. Access to relevant information and public records

As stated above, access to various relevant information and public records will be provided, as appropriate, in the context of the understandings reached in the negotiations and on the modalities for the establishing the ISGA.

D. Components of peaceful coexistence and other matters of common concern

This paragraph deals with the ongoing relations between Israel and the Palestinian Administative Council during the Interim Arrangements' period.

Smooth running of the Interim Arrangements require peaceful coexistence in the territories, and good faith in implementing the agreement.

The mechanisms suggested for enhancing the expected good faith and coexistence are follows:

1. Liaison and dispute resolution

In our informal outline of August 20, 1992, we described in detail our concept of monitoring processes and dispute resolution mechanisms:

"The cooperation and coordination regime requires a multi-level system of liaison between the organs of the Administrative Council and various Israeli government authorities and the Jordanian government. The multi-level liaison system will comprise of:

* A high liaison and coordination committee;

* Liaison committees in the various spheres of operation;

* Special liaison committees to deal with special matters.

In a number of areas a monitoring process may accompany the implementation of the agreements and understandings.

A "trial and error" period may hence be required for necessary adjustments in accordance with the experience that will be gained.

2. Cooperation and coordination

The complex set of relations between Israel and the Palestinian Administrative Council, during the Interim Arrangement's period, will, as stated, necessistate cooperation and coordination mechanisms.

Suggested mechanisms are described in detail above and in our informal outline of August 20, 1992.

Palestinian Affairs

Groups Urge Strike To Protest Autonomy 'Plot'

NC1809085792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas, the Palestinian National Liberation Movement—Fatah, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, the Organization of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards—al-Sa'iqah Forces, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and the Palestine Liberation Front met and issued a statement about the imminent danger that the administrative autonomy plan poses to the Palestinian cause.

The statement said that the administrative autonomy plan involves a Zionist plot targeting the Palestinian cause and posing the following dangers:

1. Consecrating the Zionist occupation of Palestine and giving it legitimacy.

2. Ending our people's blessed intifadah and putting an end to the conflict with the Zionist enemy.

3. Implementing plans to settle and disperse our people and to create an alternative homeland, depriving our people of their right to return to their homeland.

4. Splitting the unity of the people and land and ignoring our people's national rights.

5. Normalizing Arab-Zionist relations and enabling the Zionist enemy to impose its economic and political hegemony on the fate of our Palestinian people and our Arab and Islamic nation.

The statement added that these facts cannot be masked by the media deception practiced by the Madrid-Washington team and the PLO leadership. It stressed that this plan merely represents the final solution of the cause and national rights.

The 10 Palestinian groups stated their position about the administrative autonomy as follows:

1. They reject the administrative autonomy plan in all its detail and any measures or mechanisms—such as appointments, elections, and so on—that might result from it.

2. They stress that the Palestinian team taking part in the negotiations with the enemy does not represent the Palestinian people.

3. They hold the PLO leadership and the negotiating team responsible for responding to and accepting this liquidationist plan.

4. The 10 parties underline our people's commitment to national and Islamic principles and call for holding a referendum on everything that affects its fate and future.

5. They call on the negotiating team and the PLO leadership to withdraw immediately from the negotiating process and to stop making concessions.

6. We call on all the sons of the Palestinian people and influential forces to underline their rejection of the autonomy plot and to abort and frustrate it.

The 10 organizations declared their determination to work to abort and frustrate the autonomy plan using every possible means, to continue the intifadah, and to increase its effectiveness on the part of the masses. They also stressed their commitment to coexistence to mobilize our people's forces to confront this plan. They called for joint political action to explain this position that reflects that of our people's majority.

They also called for a general all-out strike on Wednesday, 23 September, in the Palestinian diaspora camps in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and wherever the

Palestinian people are, to express the position that rejects the administrative autonomy plot and the determination to thwart it.

Habash Urges Struggle Against Autonomy

JN1709111092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 13

[Interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Riyad Mansur in Damascus—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mansur] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] adopted well-known positions since the Palestine National Council [PNC] approved engagement in the peace process. Will there be a change in the PFLP's policy if the negotiating Palestinian delegation reaches an agreement with the Israeli side?
[Habash] At the current political phase we should concentrate on our battle against the administrative self-rule plot. Despite all the difficult local Arab and international circumstances, we should not at all think that this plot can be easily peddled. There are still serious obstacles to a final agreement on autonomy in spite of all persevering U.S. efforts to conclude such an agreement before the U.S. elections and in spite of all the humiliating concessions being made by the negotiating Palestinian delegation under continuous American-Zionist pressures.

One of the main obstacles preventing a final agreement on autonomy is the attitude of the Palestinian masses. These masses clearly reject any disregard of their aims, aspirations, and national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and a state in exchange for a frail autonomy under the specter of occupation. The Palestinian masses cannot forget all the sacrifices, blood, and pain they offered for the sake of obtaining their freedom, independence, and dignity. Anyone who thinks that the Palestinian people are ready to accept any trivial solutions and abandon their national rights will be grossly mistaken. This is the position of our people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is also the position of our masses inside and outside the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

We are determined to confront and foil this plot and will sacrifice everything for this purpose. This is the right way under the current political circumstances to wrest our national and legitimate historical rights.

We are determined to intensify and escalate our struggle despite all the difficult circumstances surrounding us. We are also determined to protect the intifadah and exert all possible efforts to back it up and ensure its continuation. We will intensify militant activities against occupation from all positions in a manner that will inflict human and material losses. We will also intensify the popular and media activities wherever the Palestinians live whether inside or outside the occupied territories. For this purpose, we will spare no effort to mobilize the forces opposing the "plot" and unify them in one body that is capable of rising up to the level of the battle. Our efforts will not be confined to the Palestinians; the battle is larger and more comprehensive. It includes the entire Arab arena. Consequently, confronting liquidation requires mobilizing the Arab national liberation forces, which are targed at this stage more than ever before—the stage of U.S. hegemony and Zionist belligerence, the stage of the new colonialist world order. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] Will the PFLP participate in any legislative elections that will be held in the occupied homeland, not to mention the reports that there is a secret agreement between the PFLP and the Hamas Movement to defeat the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine]—Hawatimah-led faction, and that you will participate in the elections on a unified ticket to defeat the PLO representatives in the elections?
[Habash] While affirming that reports about such an agreement are groundless, I would also like to emphasize that it is only natural that the broadest cooperation exists between us and the brothers in Hamas and the DFLP on the basis of opposing self-administration and any elections that are held on its basis. We will exert all our efforts to mobilize all the forces that oppose this conspiracy. We will extend hands to any one so long as the objectives revolve around the sacrifices, achievements, and national rights of our people. This is one thing. Another thing is that since we believe that these elections and autonomy that stems from them are aimed at the legalization of the Zionist solution, that is the enshrinement of occupation, then what would be the meaning of our participating in the elections as rivals of the PLO representatives? We reject this conspiracy and all that it entails.

They are calling for elections and are discussing them to emphasize the American-Zionist solution, which some influential parties within the PLO bless as being one of the Palestinian people's democratic options, while in reality they liquidate most of the achievements the Palestinian people have scored over their protracted years of struggle.

From our side, any serious and genuine elections should be linked to several conditions. The first condition is that all sectors of the Palestinian people, wherever they are, should participate in these elections. In other words, there should be some kind of popular referendum. This is so because what is being discussed during the negotiations not only concerns our people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip but concerns the fate of the Palestinian people on all the territories that were occupied in 1948 and in the diaspora, that is all the sons of this people who never hesitated to offer their blood for the sake of their inalienable national rights.

Another condition is the withdrawal of the forces of occupation. This means that elections should be held away from the repression and arbitrariness of the forces of occupation and under UN supervision. Thus, we can really ascertain that they will be fair elections. [passage omitted]

[Mansur] It is being said that the PFLP will withdraw from all PLO institutions if the peace process continues. How true is this?
[Habash] First of all, for us and for our people, the PLO is an identity, an entity, and a national program for liberation. It is a history replete with sacrifices and struggle. From this premise, it is not the property of this or that individual. The PLO is the framework for all the strugglers and the sons of our people. On this basis, we wonder why those whose political vision and beliefs are no longer in line with the PLO do not withdraw from it so long as its program conflicts with their own course? Why do they insist on bringing down this national edifice which has been saturated with the blood of our people over scores of years to the level of merely a political concept that is subject to negotiations?

The Palestinian masses do not swear allegiance to the PLO for the sake of this or that leader but because it is a symbol of struggle and because it represents a national program for liberation. Therefore, one should emphasize that the PFLP will not give up this major gain easily. We will defend this historic achievement with all our force. In the same manner that we will defend the PLO's program of repatriation, and the right to self-determination and a state, we will also wage a fierce confrontation to prevent the conclusion of deals containing the relinquishment of our people's national rights in the name of the PLO. [passage omitted]

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Views Progress of Talks

PM1509114492 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Sep 92 pp1, 4

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, by Jalal al-Mashitah in Moscow on 11 September]

[Text] [Al-Mashitah] After the first session of the sixth round of the peace negotiations, do you see any change in the Israeli position?
['Abbas] There is a fundamental difference between the position of Yitzhaq Rabin's government and the former government. The new government has, through its prime minister, announced its acceptance of the idea of interim autonomy for five years and the initiation, after three years, of negotiations on a final settlement. We, however, do not accept Rabin's view that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel, and we also reject the division of settlements into political settlements and security settlements. If the aim is protecting Israeli security, we are prepared to discuss mutual security and finding a formula that would ensure that. But we will not accept the existence of a single settlement in the territories occupied in 1967 or Jerusalem.

[Al-Mashitah] During the break in the negotiations, was a plan of action prepared for the coming phase and, if so, what are its main features?

['Abbas] We sumitted one agenda, and the Israelis submitted another. They were different but not on many fundamental issues. They have to be merged. The matter will be discussed in Washington on Monday. Our plan is balanced, objective, and does not commit any party to any conclusion in advance.

[Al-Mashitah] Has the plan been submitted to the two sponsor states? What is their position, and what are the chances of them coordinating the two plans?
['Abbas] We have submitted our plan to the Americans and, during my meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, we showed the Russians our documents and sought their advice. We call on the sponsors to intervene, even though they believe that progress should be made in the negotiations first.

[Al-Mashitah] The main point of disagreement is that Israel refuses to recognize legislative powers for the elected autonomy bodies. Rabin recently emphasized that. Will you show any flexibility on that point?
['Abbas] Can an interim government function under Israeli laws that are basically laws for controlling the land, usurping water, or should we go back to the laws that were invalidated 25 years ago? We believe that the right to legislate should be granted in the context of the agreed powers. We ask no more than that. We want a full autonomy. We have not mentioned the word "sovereignty," and we have requested nothing more than what is in the official documents drawn up by the Americans.

[Al-Mashitah] But the Israeli negotiators are saying that there should be give and take. What can you give?
['Abbas] We have offered the Israelis much in the interest of creating new chances for a settlement, but we insist on international legitimacy and the essence of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference. I agree with what Rabin himself says, namely that there should be a transitonal self-government followed by negotiations on the final stage. Security settlements do not guarantee protection. Protection is to be found in mutual trust and coexistence.

[Al-Mashitah] But your adherence to the letter of invitation has not prevented you from requesting a change in the Madrid formula.
['Abbas] That request is not at the center of the matter now. We sugested developing the formula (in the multilateral, not the bilateral talks) with representation of Palestinians from Jerusalem and those inside and outside the occupied territory after two years. In that, we proceed from the premise that the aim is to achieve a final settlement in the region, and, therefore, representation should be comprehensive. There is a difference, however, between requesting something and making preconditions. We make requests, but we continue with the negotiations.

[Al-Mashitah] Rabin has recently raised some ideas regarding details of the preparations for the elections, the form, and other related procedural issues. Has the PLO considered them?

['Abbas] The proposed schedules should be acceptable to us once agreement is reached on the gist. What is important is that we should agree on the framework of the autonomous authority, the nature of the elections, and the powers of the transitional government. Once that is achieved, dates become unimportant.

[Al-Mashitah] Are such matters as maintaining security and the police a part of that essence?
['Abbas] There are many points relating to industry, agriculture, water, the police.

[Al-Mashitah] Will the police force consist of Palestinians from inside the occupied territory only?
['Abbas] The police will be made up of Palestinians. We have the capabilities for a full Palestinian self-administration authority. We will have a police force, but this is not the time to talk about details.

[Al-Mashitah] Going into such details would prolong the negotiations until after the U.S. elections.
['Abbas] We do not think that way. We did not go to Washington to waste time. Time is precious. We want agreement today, not tomorrow. There is common ground covering 80 percent of the points in the U.S., Palestinian, and Israeli ideas. Why not translate that into reality? That would not be only in our interest. It would not be against Israeli interests and would not affect the election campaign.

[Al-Mashitah] Buf if you were to sign an agreement before results are achieved in the negotiations between Israel and the other Arab parties, would that not cause embarrassment and disputes?
['Abbas] That is a very important point. In the negotiations, we are the only Arab party that has to go through two phases not one. Agreement on autonomy would not mean the end of the matter. We would have to wait and hold further negotiations on the final settlement. I appeal to the Arab brothers not to sign before we agree on final solutions for us all.

[Al-Mashitah] While you sign the first phase?
['Abbas] When we sign the transitional autonomy agreement it would not mean that we would be acting separately from the others. We do not know who will be ahead in the negotiations. I do not rule out the possibility of some tactics to sow disagreement.

[Al-Mashitan] What is Moscow's role in all that? Does it still hold any cards that would enable it to play an effective and real part in the peace process?
['Abbas] Russia, despite all its problems, is a superpower with tremendous resources. It is also a permanent member of the Security Council and a cosponsor of the conference. Moscow has, from the beginning, played a significant part and proposed solutions to problems which others could not solve. We have recently seen some significant Russian activity reflected in the tour of Viktor Pasavalek, head of the Middle East and Africa Section at the Russian Foreign Ministry. The Russians also held talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and with our delegation, and they will today hold talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The meetings of the Security and Disarmament Committee stemming from the multilateral negotiations will also be held in Moscow next week. That is evidence of definite interest. We expect large-scale activity by the Russian foreign minister during the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly.

PLO Statement on Sabra, Shatila 'Massacre' Cited

LD1709222192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The PLO Executive Committee today issued a statement about the 10th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacre. [passage omitted]

On this day 10 years ago the Zionists and their collaborators committed the most advanced crimes of the age at the unarmed camps of Sabra and Shatila. Despite the written agreement between the PLO and Philip Habib, representative of the President of the United States, thousands of children, women, and elderly people from our Palestinian and Lebanese people fell before the very eyes of the multinational force before the ink of that agreement—including the promise given by American special envoy Philip Habib to protect all civilians of the camps after the departure of the Palestinian revolution's forces—was dry. [passage omitted]

On this painful occasion and after 10 years of the massacre in Sabra and Shatila, we were able to rise above our wounds and sufferings and put forward several initiatives to put an end to wars and fightings and to find solutions that can attain peace and security for everyone on the basis of international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations. But Israel—with the protection of the United States and its unlimited support—is still dealing with us and our people with the mentality of siege; massacres; the iron fist policy; crimes of the special units; racial discrimination and settlements; in addition to its constant attempts to exclude and jump over the question of holy Jerusalem.

We are not demanding anything more than the implementation of international legitimacy and resolutions similar to other people of the globe. Everyone must realize that the will of this people will not relent; its spirit will not fail, and its preparedness to offer sacrifices for the sake of freedom and independence will not be exhausted until the realization of national independence for our people over its free and independent land.

Victory is inevitably coming, and dawn is inevitably coming. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Meeting Sets 4th Quarter Production Goals

AU1809074392 Paris AFP in English 2102 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by Chris Lefkow]

[Text] Geneva, Sept 17 (AFP)—OPEC decided on Thursday to align its production in the fourth quarter to its market share, estimated at 24.2 million barrels a day (mbd), in an attempt to boost prices to 21 dollars a barrel.

Iran, OPEC's second largest producer, immediately distanced itself from the accord and said the organization was not doing enough to raise prices beyond their current 19.50 dollar a barrel range. "OPEC is not serious about a price increase," Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i said.

Iran, a traditional "price hawk," has threatened to pump an additional 800,000 barrels a day above its 3.2 mbd quota if other members do not respect their production quotas, but Aqazadeh-Kho'i said Tehran "will not personally do anything to disrupt the market."

"I hope the price will go up," Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir said after the ministers wrapped up a two-day meeting here of their monitoring committee. "I think the agreement will give a big impetus to the market."

The average price for an OPEC "basket" of seven key crudes has been 18.26 dollars a barrel for the year and was 19.76 dollars on Wednesday.

In a statement, the 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said: "In order to attain the minimum reference price of 21 U.S. dollars a barrel ... the committee decided that the market share of OPEC for the fourth quarter of 1992 shall be 24.2 mbd."

"Production could be a little bit more, a little bit less" than the 24.2 mbd figure during the next three months, OPEC Secretary General Subroto told reporters.

The statement failed for the first time to set a production ceiling for OPEC members, referring instead to market share.

Nazir, the Saudi minister, said demand will "probably be higher" in the fourth quarter and he noted that other sources have estimated it at between 24.3 mbd and 25.7 mbd.

Asked who will pump the surplus oil if demand is higher, the Saudi minister said: "Those who are able to."

In their statement, the OPEC ministers also made an "appeal to member countries not to take any actions that could disrupt the stability of the market."

"They agree they won't do anything which would jepoardize the market," said Subroto.

The 24.2 mbd figure for OPEC's market share in the last three months of the year includes unspecified output for Kuwait, still rebuilding its damaged industry following the Gulf War.

It is virtually identical to the 24.179 mbd output figure for August reported by OPEC members to the OPEC Secretariat.

Industry sources who monitor OPEC put the actual August production of its members higher, at up to 24.5 mbd.

At a press conference, Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the Iranian oil minister, said that there were "several negatives" in the final statement.

"I do not really accept the conclusions made," he said, noting that it was "not an agreement that had to be signed."

Iran has been aggressively pushing for higher prices to make up in part for lost revenue because of the depreciation of the dollar, the reference currency for oil. It was seeking concrete guarantees here that OPEC members were serious about curbing production and respecting their own quotas.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Olirio Parra described the agreement as "realistic."

"We'd still like to see the 21 dollar basket price during this year," he said.

Nauman Barakat, an energy analyst for Merrill Lynch, said it appeared to be a "good agreement overall" although the ministers "fuzzed the agreement by moving away from production to market share."

"We will get a price close to the benchmark 21 dollars but not immediately," he said.

"The numbers are all right," said John Lichtblau of Petroleum Industry Research Foundation. "The market will require more than 24.2 mbd and prices will firm up."

Subroto said that a scheduled November 25 ministerial conference in Vienna would provide an opportunity to review the demand situation.

Egypt

President Mubarak Discusses Foreign Policy

NC1709155592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
13 Sep 92 pp 3, 5

["Text" of second installment of interview given by President Husni Mubarak to AL-AHRAM Editor in Chief Ibrahim Nafi' in Alexandria—date not given]

[Text] [Nafi'] Everyone knows that your moves abroad have always been primarily to serve internal issues. Can you explain this?
[Mubarak] The Egyptian presence on the international scene is very important to both the world and Egypt in view of Egypt's special position and the increasing respect that Egypt is enjoying among the world states. Egypt, due to its resources, heritage, geographical location, economic progress and the rays of information and culture on its land, will certainly influence the course of events throughout the Arab homeland, the African Continent, and the Mediterranean region.

The Egyptian presence is being greeted by most of the world countries in view of the confidence in Egypt's wise policies, balanced behavior, and its definite desire to establish cooperation among everyone for the sake of a better world.

Egypt began receiving this welcome and support after the world's countries had sensed that Egypt's intentions and policies are aimed at achieving the just, lasting, and all-out peace in the region. Achieving peace in the region will contribute directly to world peace.

It is known that our concern over the past years has been primarily focused on strengthening the domestic front in its capacity as the practical basis for building a healthy, strong domestic front. This is the inevitable condition for the success of any external move. Moreover, the direct or indirect ultimate goal of any wise external move must serve the domestic front.

To be specific, I would like to point out that our main and greatest concern since I assumed power under the difficult circumstances—which are known to every citizen—has been and continues to be the issue of development. We all need to increase the agricultural and industrial product. We also need to promote the quality of our products so that they will be competitive and capable of satisfying consumers and attracting foreign markets. Likewise, we need to elevate the standard of services in the fields of education, health, housing, and communications; moreover, we need to provide job opportunities to hundreds of thousands of youths every year. (Some 450,000 Egyptian males and females).

We also cannot ignore other requirements, such as reducing the general budget deficit. We must try to reduce this deficit gradually in order to maintain the value of the Egyptian pound. We must narrow the gap between the value of our exports of commodities and services and the value of our imports. It is our responsibility to maintain a specific balance between the wages and prices.

To achieve all this, we need several elements, including the internal and external elements. Through the external moves, we managed to provide the necessary financing for the huge infrastructure projects. Some of these projects are considered the largest in the world, such as the sewage project in Cairo and other cities. We also managed to modernize production equipment in the largest Egyptian factories and opened up several markets for Egyptian products. We now see products bearing the sign "made in Egypt" in developed countries. No one ever imagined that one single Egyptian commodity would be sold in those countries.

There is also another issue of the same importance: the issue of exempting Egypt of half of its foreign debts. I consider this issue to be the most important accomplishment we have made over the past years, because the foreign debt installments used to constitute an obstacle impeding not only the continuation of development efforts but also the state's efforts to bear its duties and basic responsibilities. Thus, I focused on this issue during my contacts with the major creditors since 1983. I placed this issue at the top of priorities of our external dealings. We have been pleased that a certain arrangement has been made that has never been enjoyed by another country. This is a huge gain that would never have been accomplished had it not been for a diligent, active, external policy over many years.

[Nafi'] Does not this impose burdens on Egypt at a time when the country is trying to alleviate the burdens accumulated on it? To speak more frankly, this presence has led, for instance, to the participation of an Egyptian force in Bosnia-Hercegovina and in Somalia. Does this not constitute a burden on Egypt?
[Mubarak] This presence has come at the the request of the UN, which persistently urged Egypt to take part in the peacekeeping forces. Egypt was chosen due to its position and confidence in its ability to serve peace in these hotbeds. As for the burdens and costs, the UN will bear them. It is not true that we are bearing financial burdens as a result of our participation in the peacekeeping forces. We gained the respect of the vast majority of world countries as a result of this participation, a respect that will result in constant gains for Egypt. Countries always agree to deal with and assist those whom they trust and respect.

[Nafi'] President Mubarak moves all the time, even during vacations. You have paid a visit to Oman and Kuwait and returned on the same day; that is, an eight-hour flight and a four-hour visit. What is behind this constant and rapid movement?
[Mubarak] He who is in a position of responsibility must know that there is no such thing as vacation or rest. I receive reports about the situation in the world 24 hours a day everyday of the year. It makes no sense to postpone

a certain move involving an issue that directly or indirectly affects the interests of Egypt or its people due to a desire to have a vacation. Sultan Qabus of Oman, for instance, is a man with whom I am linked by a strong relationship based on mutual respect, amity, and appreciation. Thus, I thought it was my duty to visit him in his country to convey my condolences for the death of his mother. I also thought that the course of events in the Gulf region required a visit to the brothers in Kuwait to consult with them on the situation in the region and clarify the dangers to which the region's countries are exposed. Once these missions were accomplished, I returned to the homeland on the same day.

[Nafi'] Your Excellency: The Iraqi arena is the scene of moves that might lead to the partition of Iraq. The southern part is no longer under Iraq's control, and the northern part, which is populated by Kurds, had been previously isolated. Is there a way to end this fragmentation of an Arab state?
[Mubarak] Egypt's position is clear in this regard. We are against the partition of Iraq, because it means the partition of the Iraqi people, for whom we wish all the best. I hope that Iraq's resources are geared toward rebuilding the country and promoting development efforts. Iraq is a developing country that needs every dinar to achieve progress. This progress will not be attained under tense relations with its neighbors and threats of war and aggression. Wars lead to devastation and destruction, while peace accelerates the drive for progress and reconstruction. I had previously advised and appealed to the president of Iraq more than 30 times to withdraw his forces [from Kuwait] to spare the lives of people. He absolutely did not listen to my appeals, even though I was sincere in seeking a peaceful solution to the problem through withdrawal. He did not listen to me, and what I had expected—from the experience of dealing with various world countries—happened.

[Nafi'] Iran's actions in the Gulf are also not reassuring. Your Excellency, don't you see this as a threat to regional peace?
[Mubarak] Certainly it is better to attain peace in the entire region and not merely between Iraq and its neighbors. Other countries, however, have failed to grasp this, particularly Iran, which has imposed its presence on Abu Musa Island. I cannot at all understand how Iran can use force to usurp this or other islands, exploiting the fact that it is stronger militarily than the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and that its population is more than 25 times that of the UAE. It is a regrettable development. It is astonishing that after doing this, Iran speaks of its wish to bolster its relations with the Gulf's Arab Islamic countries. How can a country impose its wishes unilaterally and by force and then speak of normal relations with the very country whose sovereignty it has violated? This logic is unacceptable, because it paves the way for foreign interventions and raises fears about further Iranian ambitions to impose its hegemony over the UAE and other fraternal states in the Gulf. All parties must understand the facts of this age and that resolving disputes must be done at the negotiating table. The age of imposing fait accomplis and solutions, particularly unjust ones, is over. Imposing solutions will not work and will inevitably lead to a vicious circle of force and counterforce. In the end the, people will be the losers, because economic development will come to a halt; poverty, instability, and insecurity will spread. Certainly, the Iranian people badly need to use their resources to establish more projects, develop services, and increase production—not to provoke tensions with neighboring countries.

Iran must also realize that it cannot interfere in other countries' affairs or exercise custodianship over them on the pretext of the Islamic call or any other excuse. Indeed, the primary duty of Islamic countries is to assist fraternal Islamic countries to solve their problems with methods that are appropriate to their circumstances and in line with their people's wishes—not those of any foreign power. Actually, one cannot but be surprised by countries who demand that the major powers respect their will and independence and refrain from interfering in their internal affairs and then give themselves the right to do what they are urging the major powers not to do. Is not such a policy the epitome of self-contradiction?

[Nafi'] According to reports, Iran's activity has spread to Sudan with the aim of destabilizing Egypt.
[Mubarak] No one can destabilize Egypt. We will never allow it. It is a matter connected to the future of 58 million Egyptians. We are directing all our efforts toward economic growth. Our policies are clear. We are seeking relations of cooperation, friendship, and amity with all countries. We have eternal ties with the fraternal Sudanese people that are made stronger by the presence of four or five million Sudanese living in Egypt. They are living among their brothers here and are welcome to do so; moreover, Egypt is a natural and distinctive market for Sudanese products. It is the nearest and largest market for them. The prosperity of Sudanese farmers and merchants increases through their dealings with Egypt. Egypt has always sought to safeguard the Sudanese people's future, progress, and territorial integrity, but some parties are trying to drive a wedge between the two countries and people. They imagine that they can provoke disputes and crises, but these attempts will inevitably fail, because they are motivated by the personal ambitions of small groups that are not serving the Sudanese people's interests. The Sudanese people understand this, and they have daily proof of it. As for ourselves, we are capable of foiling the attempts of saboteurs to enter our territory. We will deal firmly with these attempts and with those who carry them out. They know perfectly well that any such attempt will fail. They must now reconsider, and he who has warned cannot be blamed.

[Nafi'] Speaking of the Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the Hala'ib and Shalatin problem remains a bone of contention between the two countries.

[Mubarak] Before speaking about this issue, I would like to tell you a strange story. Lt. Gen al-Bashir had asked through various parties to meet with me. Naturally, we are not against any meeting or dialogue. While I was thinking of the matter, I was surprised by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir attacking Egypt and myself in an Arab newspaper. I do not like this type of dealing. I do not like words that contradict actions. In addition to what Lt. Gen. al- Bashir did in Dakar—which is a regrettable thing, the details of which I do not wish to divulge—I was surprised by a position by someone who wanted to meet with me and who then attacked my country on the very next day. It is like the position of someone who wants to shake hands with one hand, but who holds a knife in the other with which to stab you in the back. This also reminds me of the positions of Iran, which contacts us about resuming relations and then declares that it does not want to normalize relations with Egypt.

Again, I do not like this kind of dealing. Henceforth, I will not answer the conflicting statements issued by these two countries' officials. We are frank and clear. What we say behind closed doors we declare publicly without hesitation, fear, or concealment.

As for this issue, which you call a problem: In fact, there is no problem in the first place. According to maps and international and historic documents recognized by the two countries, Hala'ib and Shalatin are pure Egyptian territory.

Some elements have raised this topic to distort facts, bring up imaginary issues, and exploit them to influence the relations between the two countries. These elements know very well that there is a firm principle that cannot be compromised or be open for discussion: namely, that there can be no relinquishment of a single inch of Egyptian territory. This issue will be resolved calmly to avoid harming the two peoples.

[Nafi'] Allow me to move to another subject closer to your mind and heart—namely, the Palestinian issue. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited Egypt nearly a month ago. Are there any new developments, and how do you expect events will develop?

[Mubarak] Everbody knows that our goal over the past 10 years has been to establish a lasting and just peace and achieve the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people. We have been and are still convinced that it is in the Israeli people's interest that the Palestinian people achieve their rights. Safeguarding these interests requires negotiations among all parties.

We have done our best to consolidate the conviction among all parties that negotiations are necessary. We have stressed that the appropriate atmosphere for these negotiations must be created. The international community has contributed toward creating this atmosphere. The United States has played an important role in this respect. The change in the Israeli Government and the formation of a new government has also contributed to the creation of this atmosphere.

I believe there has been progress, but we must not be overly optimistic and expect comprehensive and final solutions within a short period. The negotiations are taking place over complicated issues which have accumulated over a period of 50 years. The negotiations require patience, dexterity, self-confidence, and perseverance. On our part, we have offered our expertise. Our experts are versed in negotiations and are aware of all the aspects of the issue, its history, and its ramifications. They are ready to help the brothers.

[Nafi'] Being optimistic about achieving a lasting peace, the world seems to have begun to think about the future of development in the region and to speak about ventures in which the regional countries would participate. Will Egypt participate in these projects?

[Mubarak] The modern world is mainly characterized by an organized thought process, preplanned applicable studies, and accurate and close followup of events. When expectations come true, its plans and projects are ready for implementation.

Therefore, do not be surprised when you see groups busily preparing detailed studies of projects that can be implemented when peace has been established. It is important that we learn this pattern, because in light of our location and standing, we will be part of the arena in which these projects will be implemented. We must have the ability to decide which of these projects suits us and serves our interests. Undoubtedly, establishing a lasting peace will deliver great momentum to development efforts, because peace enables all the region's countries, including Israel, to divert part of their military spending to civil purposes. Peace also ensures a suitable climate to attract investments from rich companies and countries.

[Nafi'] There is talk in Europe of cooperation between northern and southern Mediterranean countries. Is there any formula laid down for this cooperation?

[Mubarak] There is no specific formula for this cooperation so far. But there are numerous, diverse ideas based on the geographic location and inevitable interests of the countries in the north that historically and practically belong to Europe and the countries of the south that belong to Africa.

Cooperation on the environment has already been achieved. There is a plan under way to eliminate sources of pollution in the Mediterranean, which is being implemented with the full cooperation of all countries. A project to link the Egyptian electrical network with the Mediterranean littoral European states across Jordan, Syria, and Turkey is also under way. Certainly, there are other aspects of cooperation that can be identified and implemented to benefit all participants.

All experiments of cooperation among the various parties to boost trade and economic development are beneficial to the contributors. The EC countries realized this fact many years ago, and the North American states group sought to accomplish this recently through a

preliminary formula of cooperation among the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

[Nafi'] Your Excellency, you called attention some time ago to the need to examine the effects of establishing European unity, especially the impact of this unity on the volume and conditions of trade with this new entity. Has this study been completed, and is Egypt prepared to preserve and develop its interests with the new Europe?
[Mubarak] Indeed, I asked the government to study the very effect of European unity on the volume of trade with Europe and the EC's conditions and specifications for importing goods. I also asked that the outcome of the study be forwarded to the agencies dealing with producing and exporting goods to Europe; moreover, I asked that regular meetings be held with EC experts to determine the improvements needed in the Egyptian commodities, especially the items that stand a chance to be exported to Europe.

I call on the Egyptian universities and research centers to express their views on this issue, because it requires objective study. All individuals and agencies, whether governmental or private, complement each other in their studies in this regard.

[Nafi'] Mr. President, cooperation with Europe is very important to us. Egypt is the second country that is receiving aid from the EC states. [sentence as published] Does this aid reflect the weight and political significance, or does Europe have demands from the countries receiving such aid?
[Mubarak] The EC has helped Egypt in a systematic manner for many years. The total grants received by Egypt from 1977 to 1992 totals $2.463 billion, equivalent to 8.209 billion Egyptian pounds. This is in addition to the easy-term loans that Egypt obtained during the same period and which amounted to $3.852 billions equivalent to 12.838 billion Egyptian pounds.

This aid has been bestowed on Egypt (and this is recorded in official reports issued by the EC) for many reasons. The first of these is to reiterate appreciation for Egypt and its leading role in establishing stability in the region. The second reason reflects the conviction that the funds received are being spent on development. Thirdly, the way the aid funds are managed shows efficiency, wisdom, and complete eagerness on using these funds in the best possible development, economic, and social fields.

Europe has no demands from Egypt. Rather, it's we who always made the demands. Truly, our demands were always welcome and appreciated. Everyone should know that the advanced world countries usally help those who are willing to help themselves. And when they find out that you are serious and careful in utilizing the funds for purposes that are useful to your country, they will help you without hesitation.

We also must not forget that Europe has direct interests in achieving stability in this part of the world. Egypt is the key to Africa and the Middle East. Egypt is the gateway for trade between Europe on the one hand and Africa and Asia on the other, through the Suez Canal. Egypt is also the crossing point for a large part of Europe's needs of oil and natural gas. The Gulf region contains well over 60 percent of the world oil reserves. Developing international trade and the regular influx of goods is very important for continued development in Europe. The European countries have huge production capacities and, consequently, they rely on exporting a large amount of their products in order to fully utilize these capacities.

For our part, we are keen on facilitating the trade business and on offering all kinds of facilities. After signing the first peace agreement, we hastened to reopen the Suez Canal. We implemented the first project to improve the transit facilities at the cost of $980 millions equivalent to 3.266 billion Egyptian pounds. Work has indeed begun in the second project at the cost of $843 million, equivalent to 2.809 billion Egyptian pounds. We will continue to appreciate the European countries and our relations with them will remain strong now and in future.

[Nafi'] Concerning the subject of cooperation with the countries that have common interests, the citizens inquire about the fate of the Damascus Declaration, which was signed more than a year ago between Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states. Frankly, the people are saying that nothing of what was said has been achieved and that the Declaration will remain words without implementation.
[Mubarak] In my opinion and according to the report submitted to me by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa about the results of the Doha meetings on the Damascus Declaration, the meetings achieved good results. We will await the outcome of the summit meeting of the kings and presidents, which will discuss the results of the foreign ministers' meetings. No doubt that the intentions of everyone are sincere. The Declaration is aimed at: first, working out a formula that would make the sisterly Gulf states feel secure and capable of confronting any future dangers after having been exposed to this dreadful earthquake [reference to the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq], which was unprecedented in modern Arab history; second, providing support for Egypt and Syria and perhaps to other brothers in the Arab world for the sake of achieving development and overcoming economic problems. But we must not forget that the Gulf war has created a destructive impact on the region's states. The latest estimate of the economic damage has reached well over $600 billion, which constitutes shocking burdens. Had one-fourth of this amount been spent on groundwork for development, the region's economic and social map would have been completely changed.

It must also be known that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates jointly bore a major part of the burden. This happened at a time when the prices of oil, the major source of revenue for these brothers, stabilized. Matters are now returning to normal, and this will become clear in the future. We must also not forget that

it takes time to turn any agreement or declaration into specific programs, finance them, specify which programs will be implemented and will be beneficial to the declaration's signatories and the country which receives the money, and select the best ways of supervising the use of the money. The previous period was not wasted but was utilized to study many of these issues. We hope that these studies will produce positive results soon.

[Nafi'] People are wondering about the fate of the cooperation with the United States, and the aid we will receive from it after the presidential elections in November. Is there a possibility that the U.S. aid will be reduced?

[Mubarak] Between 1975 and 1992, the United States extended aid in the form of outright grants to Egypt totaling $27.256 billion. Approximately 60 percent was military aid and 40 percent economic aid. Part of it was in cash, and the rest was financing for commodity purchases and development programs. Egypt is the second largest recipient of U.S. aid, undoubtedly due to Egypt's important status and the American people's favorable impression. The U.S. aid-granting system is stable and proceeds as follows: Annual U.S. aid begins with a U.S. Administration proposal that is prepared in consultation with U.S. legislative institutions—the House of Representatives and the Senate. The aid program is then submitted to specialized congressional committees and finally to a plenary session of both houses of Congress for discussion, approval, or amendment. All those who follow these discussions are proud of Congress' appreciation of Egypt and its people.

This aid has remained at the same level since 1986. We hope it will continue so that we may be able to rectify the course of Egyptian economy and achieve the desired development. We are grateful for U.S. assistance and feel it is an important factor and will remain important to Egyptian economy. On the other hand, I believe that this continued aid is important to the Unit

? States as well, because it strengthens economic ties, facilitates the exchange of expertise, and gives the opportunity to U.S. companies to explore the capacity of the Egyptian market and other nearby markets. It also determines various spheres of economic cooperation that are mutually beneficial.

[Nafi'] Mr. President, do you agree that we have not given sufficient attention to a region that includes more than a third of the world's population and which has achieved economic miracles? Some of this region's countries suffered the same problems that Egypt now faces until 1960. Then, conditions changed, and they overcame their difficulties. I mean Japan, South Korea, and other Southeast Asian countries.

[Mubarak] We have very good relations with major Asian countries: Japan, China, India, and Pakistan, and all the other Asian countries. The volume of our trade with them is increasing, but I agree with you that our government institutions and the business sector have not given that region the attention it deserves. We can learn a lot from these countries, particularly since some of them have successfully absorbed U.S. and European technology. They transferred this technology to their countries, developed it, and made it less costly and more in line with their needs.

These countries can benefit if they extend the bridges of cooperation to Egypt, which puts them closer to the markets of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. They can become competitive in view of the low wages in Egypt as compared with their own wages, which have risen in recent years. These countries will reap great benefits as a result of several privileges provided by the investment laws in Egypt.

Since there are benefits and interests for us and for our friends in Asia, we will strive to upgrade these relations. The coming years will witness a special effort to strengthen links with these states. There will be a tangible increase in the areas and size of cooperation with several Asian countries.

[Nafi'] A last question, Mr. President. We read daily reports about resolutions and serious proposals made by well known international economic and social organizations and establishments to open offices in Egypt. Do you encourage this?

[Mubarak] Definitely. We welcome the opening of offices for these establishments in Egypt. You know that most UN agencies, international finance establishments, and regional conglomerations have offices in some states. The choice of the host states is usually made according to strict criteria set by these organizations, most important of which are stability, security, and the availability of basic services such as communications, transport, education, and health services. Egypt is at the forefront of the states that are chosen for this purpose. This is testimony that there is stability and security in Egypt, which has been able to upgrade its services and utilities to an internationally acceptable level. These establishments spend a portion of their budget in the host state. Accordingly, they provide work opportunities for local employees, who also gain experience in administration through their employment in these establishments. This makes us feel really happy. If we go a bit into the past, we used to hear successive reports about decisions to transfer the offices of international organizations in Egypt to other countries without mentioning the reasons. We then used to hear whispers that the relocation was done due to the lack of basic services necessary for the operations. When we hear that in less than 10 years Egypt is now considered a good place for the opening of such offices, this gladdens our heart. May God help us to realize more victories for Egypt.

[Nafi'] Your Excellency, I have taken up too much of your time. After this comprehensive interview, in which I could see Egypt running in your blood and taking up every moment of your time, permit me, Your Excellency, after this wonderful interview, to note, on behalf of millions of Egyptians, that you have endured what no human could have endured, something that history will

certainly give you matchless credit for. You have taken office in a stormy sea and commanded the ship safely to shore. It is now moving steadily toward a better future. You have taken over command when Egypt's enemies were the majority; now, friends are. You have taken command of this country when all its infrastructure was a wreck, and those who lived in this country before 1980 could testify to this. Only 10 years ago, power cuts were part of our daily life, and telephones were almost always out of order. The break of sewage pipes in the main streets was a common occurrence that we unwillingly accepted with disgust and shame before our non-Egyptian guests. Ports overstocked with goods were things that the world news agencies reported with wonder and sarcasm. Recharting international flights so that they would not overfly Egyptian airspace was a standing procedure for international aviation organizations that we were helpless to do anything about. Not less than 30 percent of Egyptian children was denied access to schools, because no seats in state-run schools were available for them. There are too many other examples that I do not wish to recall now and which most of the Egyptians have forgotten. All these things disappeared after you personally took command and secured the flow of the necessary funds needed for rebuilding these infrastructures. You took over command of Egypt when it was overburdened with debts, which accumulated to the extent that it could neither pay back nor serve the high interests on them. Now, after only 10 years, the debts are sliced in half and the annual interest on them has become affordable for us. We have restored the confidence of the international financial quarters. What's more, Egypt is now being chased by lending organizations, which are making generous offers to it. But under strict instructions from you, it declines many offers and accepts some after careful study and only when it is certain it will be able to pay them back. You have taken over Egypt's command when production centers were exhausted, crippled, and burdened with past shortcomings. You have done your best to get over this problem. People trusted you and within 10 years only, thousands, actually more than a million, feddans were reclaimed, and the wheels of production spun in thousands of factories. Lights were switched on, and activity spread in hundreds of tourist villages and hotels. These are just a few examples from the past, but there are many more to tell. This is refreshing news and a source of pride for Egypt. We cannot but wish you good health so that you may give more to Egypt.

[Mubarak] Thank you. I wish all the best for all the people in Egypt, especially the honest workers and producers among them. I hope the coming generations in Egypt will gain the fruits of what we worked hard and suffered much to grow. We might not live long enough to share the joy of harvesting these fruits with them, but we are pleased that our children will gain the fruits that their fathers sacrificed to grow, denying themselves many of the comforts of life at some stages. We are pleased that we and our generation will spare them some of the burdens and high costs we have experienced during our difficult times. I thank God Almighty for giving me this little energy and pray to Him sincerely to support me so that I could continue my contribution to my country and the dear people of Egypt, who are worth the effort.

Daily Remarks on President Mubarak, al-Asad Talks

NC1809073192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 18 Sep 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM's editorial for today carries the headline "Egypt Is Always At The Service Of The Nation's Causes." The paper writes that the quick visit by Syrian President Hafiz to Egypt the day before yesterday for talks with President Husni Mubarak acquired great importance, because the talks came at a sensitive time; the Middle East peace talks are going on, and there is the crisis of the three Gulf islands being disputed between Iran and the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The paper clarifies that the two Arab leaders agreed about the need to achieve some progress in the peace talks so that the current positive thrust is not lost, which indicates Syria's true desire for peace and its refusal to waste the current opportunity.

The paper points out that the al-Asad-Mubarak talks also dealt with the three Gulf islands over the sovereignty of which Iran and the United Arab Emirates are in conflict.

The paper concludes: Both leaders agreed to convince Iran to avoid escalating the situation in the Gulf. The circle will be complete when President Mubarak holds talks with UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan. These efforts made by Egypt, which is represented by its President Mubarak, reflect Egypt's constant readiness to serve the causes of its Arab brothers without delay or failure and without expecting anything in return.

'Extremist' Arrested for Attacks on Tourists

NC1709113192 Paris AFP in English 1102 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, Sept 17 (AFP)—Police have arrested a Muslim extremist accused of organising attacks on tourists in southern Egypt, AL-AHRAM newspaper reported Thursday.

After a two-month search, police tracked down Badr Makhluf at an apartment in the town of Suhaj on Wednesday. He is accused of organising attacks on tourists buses and sites in the Nile city of Luxor, AL-AHRAM said.

Makhluf, a lawyer, is said to be the leader of extremists in Qina, 500 kilometres (310 miles), south of Cairo.

Police also wounded an extremist and arrested six others after a shootout in Qina on Wednesday, according to the newspaper.

In July and August extremists threw rocks at tourists buses along the Nile and planted small incendiary bombs at tourists sites, slightly injuring some tourists.

A communique purporting to come from the extremist Al-Jama'ah al- Islamiyah [Islamic Group] warned foreigners on Thursday to stay away from Qina and Luxor, the centre of Pharaonic temples and tombs.

The warning, sent to a Western news agency, was timed with the start of the tourist season in Egypt.

The organisation warned that clashes between government forces and extremists would increase in Qina and that tourists' lives would be endangered.

"We call on you to stop them from visiting the area in future days in the interests of their lives and security," it said.

The government has condemned extremists for deliber ately targetting tourists in a bid to undermine the economy.

Housing Projects Under Way in Hala'ib, Shalatin

NC1709185092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities, and new urban communities, said that the new housing law will be issued after it is presented to the People's Assembly at its upcoming session. He said that low-income families no longer have housing problems.

He noted that his Ministry is carrying out a new project for people with irregular income. Under the project, 5,000 housing units will be built in Badr and al-'Ubur towns. Each unit will consist of a room and a hall and will be sold for 4,000 Egyptian pounds, payable in monthly installments.

Al-Kafrawi said his ministry is currently carrying out development and reconstruction projects in the Shalatin and Hala'ib areas, confirming that Egyptian engineers and contracting companies are working in these areas.

Development Plans To Be Drawn Up

NC1709205392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The decision was made to draw up a comprehensive development plan for the Egyptian Hala'ib and Shalatayn area to improve citizens' living standards there.

Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing, utilities, and new urban communities, said today that water wells have been drilled and sea water desalination plants have been set up with a 1,000 cubic meter daily output to provide drinking water for the citizens who suffer acute water shortages.

Al-Kafrawi added that 240 housing units have been built for the people there, in addition to the establishment of Islamic centers and al-Azhar-affiliated institutions. He noted that agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Supply to set up food distribution centers for the public.

He said that a search is now under way for ground water in order to utilize it in that area. He added that the area has coral reefs and fishing regions and that various rare and predatory animal species live in the area, which qualifies it to be a tourist attraction.

Morocco

USFP, Istiqlal, OADP Want Election Postponed

LD1709155892 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpt] In Morocco, the three main opposition parties are calling for the postponement of the forthcoming elections. Over to Patrick Adam in Rabat:

[Adam] In a memorandum handed to one of the king's advisers, the Socialist Union of Popular Forces [USFP], the Istiqlal, and the Organization of Democratic and Popular Action [OADP], have called for a revision of the dates of the electoral processes. The reasons given by the three parties—such as the need to clean up the new electoral rolls and review the division of constituencies—look very legal, but the last paragraph of the memorandum sums up the spirit of the request, namely the establishment of a climate of general ease that would enable people to be confident about the future. The issue at stake is indeed confidence to allow the holding of the first elections in eight years. The electoral rolls have been revised but according to the opposition the new ones are no better than the previous ones. The dead and the absents are still being allowed to vote, the opposition press says. [passage omitted]

UNFP to Boycott Elections

LD1609211192 Rabat MAP in English 1241 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Rabat, Sept 15 (MAP)—The National Union of Popular Forces (UNFP/opposition) said it would boycott the coming communal, legislative and professional elections, reports Tuesday the daily "ANOUAL" quoting a UNFP release.

The Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/opposition) which is part of the democratic block announced the decision by its Central Committee to participate in the elections. The party called for mobilization to see to transparent and fair ballot insisting the councils are genuine schools of democracy.

A third party of the "Kutla" said it would not take part in the coming consultations unless a number of conditions are met.

The Organization for Popular and Democratic Action (OADP/ opposition) says through its mouthpiece in Arabic "ANOUAL" the political climate should be eased with the release of political detainees including those arrested for the Dec 14 events. They also want the Interior Ministry supervision scrapped and criteria for the vote bureau composition adopted unanimously for the sake of fair and transparent elections.

The OADP wants reconsideration of voters' lists to have them match the political reality in the Kingdom and control of the public media by the national commission to supervise elections so that equal access is allowed for all political parties to get their message across and explicate platforms.

Besides the UNFP, the PPS and the OADP, the Democratic Bloc also includes the Istiqlal Party and the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP).

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Belgium

LD1709090892 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Within the context of strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Kingdoms of Morocco and Belgium, three agreements were signed today in Rabat.

The first agreement relates to financing compensatory payments for consulting engineers with respect to the completion of the heat plant at Jourf al-Asfar. This will be in the form of a financial grant amounting to 72 million Belgian francs, meeting 50 percent of the total cost of this project. The rest will be financed by loans from the Bruxelle-Empire Bank.

The second agreement relates to the allocation of funds for financing applied research and exchanges among scientific and technological institutions, according to which the Belgian Government will allocate, at Morocco's discretion, an amount of 50 million Belgian francs, divided into installments of 4 million Belgian francs [figure as heard], for the implementation of each project. It is stipulated that the selected projects should meet Morocco's economic and social development needs.

The third agreement covers the project of central water control in irrigation areas in Daraa and aims, basically, at determining the contribution of the Moroccan and Belgian Governments to the completion of this project.

These three agreements were signed by Mr. Ahmed Ouardi, deputy director general of international cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and Belgian Ambassador Guillaume Metten.

Polisario Defector Hakim Appointed Ambassador

LD1609214592 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] His Majesty King Hassan, who was flanked by His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed, the crown prince, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid, received Mr Moulay Mahdi Alaoui, whom he appointed as his ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Mr Ibrahim Hakim [former Saharan Democratic Arab Republic foreign minister who defected to Morocco recently], whom the beloved monarch appointed as his majesty's roving ambassador.

[Begin Hassan recording] [passage omitted] Mr Ibrahim Hakim, we have decided to appoint you as his majesty's roving ambassador. We have appointed you in this post for two reasons. First, to stress once again that clemency and forgiveness are two of Morocco's natural dispositions, and I am not saying the Alawite dynasty or the Alawites, but these are two of the Moroccans' natural dispositions, particularly their kings since Moulay Idriss I until today. We have chosen for you the post of roving ambassador because of the knowledge you have of the outside world and of several regions in all the continents. You will undertake missions with which we will entrust you. [passage omitted]

Sudan

UN Delegation Tours Juba, Leaves for Kenya

EA1809112392 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Juba, 17 Sep (SUNA)—The assistant U.N. secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, Jan Eliasson, accompanied by the state minister at the presidency, Dr Ghazi Salah al-Din, and a media delegation comprising Arab and international agencies correspondents, arrived here Wednesday [16 September].

The delegation was received at the airport by Equatoria State's wali [governor] Maj-Gen Saturnino Harikha, his deputy Angelo Beda, commander of Equatoria military area, Maj-Gen al-Mamun Hasan Mahjub and a number of officials and officers in the state.

The delegation paid visits to hospitals, displaced camps, the town's various utilities, and the Armed and People's Defence Force's front lines.

In a press statement Eliasson thanked the Government of the Sudan for offering the chance to visit Sudan and got acquainted with the situation of the people. He said the U.N. would continue to assist Sudan in the field of humanitarian work. Eliasson left here [the] same day for Nairobi, Kenya.

Joint Statement Issued

EA1809112892 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Sep (SUNA)—Sudan Government has signed with the U.N. here Wednesday [16 September] a joint statement at the end of the U.N. secretary general assistant for humanitarian affairs, Jan Eliasson visit to the Sudan, which started on 13th September.

The statement includes the Sudan's Government confirmation to the commitment of the principal of Operation Lifeline Sudan as a landmark in humanitarian assistance. Both sides reiterated their firm support for the Addis Ababa declaration on humanitarian issues within the framework of these principles. The Government of Sudan and the U.N. reaffirmed the critical importance of access to all people in need of humanitarian relief operations and the fundamental necessity for transparency.

In response to a proposal from the U.N. to access affected populations in southern Sudan, the Government of Sudan presented a counter proposal for corridors to be used by the river corridors, air operations includes (Anzara), (Liang), Mundri, Thiet [Tonj Province], (Leer), Akobo [Jonglei Province], Waat [Upper Nile Province], Mayom [Upper Nile Province], Gogrial [Bahr al-Ghazal Province], Bor Pibor [Jonglei Province], Juba, Wau, and Pochala [Upper Nile Province], these represent 21 out of the 30 destinations proposed by the U.N. [sentence as received]

Islamic Forces Reportedly Detain Juba Citizens

EA1809112092 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Since the beginning of the Forest Storm campaign during which the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] succeeded in clearly defeating the Islamic front forces in Juba, the SPLA has also succeeded in neutralizing the plans of the Islamic Front forces aimed at attacking the liberated areas west of the Nile.

The SPLA forces have managed to occupy three-quarters of the town and the Islamic forces are now besieged in an area no more than one-tenth of the area which they used to occupy before the fighting started. However, when the Islamic Front forces realized how close they were to defeat they resorted to detaining thousands of citizens, nearly 300,000 persons, in a small area.

They evacuated them from their homes and herded them into schools, churches, and public squares under inhuman conditions. They then destroyed their homes for military purposes in [words indistinct] areas. Thus they subjected the people to great danger as they did not have enough food to feed themselves, and they used them as human armor. [passage omitted]

The government resorted to the execution and detention of hundreds of people inside Juba town. The disappearance of scores of people, if not hundreds of them, became a normal thing. Juba is now witnessing acts similar to those in Latin America [words indistinct]. People coming out of Juba have confirmed this, including relief personnel.

The government has expelled all foreigners from the town under the pretext of saving their lives. Meanwhile government information media continue to talk about calm conditions, asserting that the town is not facing any famine or threats. This indicates the government's [word indistinct] intention towards the citizens.

The government also expelled the Italian Camponi mission recently whose members spoke about the crimes of killing and detention and the disappearance of people practiced by the Islamic Front government in an interview with the BBC. [passage omitted]

The world must no longer remain inactive while witnessing the annihilation of more than 300,000 people. The comprehensive and final solution, as seen by the SPLA, for the Juba tragedy [words indistinct] this big prison, enabling the citizens to leave it for more secure areas.

Al-Bashir Reportedly Expresses Support for Iraq

JN1709175692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Sep (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has affirmed Sudan's support for Iraq in its confrontation of conspiratorial designs.

During a meeting today with Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir condemned the conspiracy targeting Iraq's unity, which also seeks to interfere in its domestic affairs. Al-Bashir asked 'Abdallah Fadil to relay his greetings to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and also to the Iraqi people, as well as his pride in Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies.

For his part, the minister paid tribute to Sudan's noble stands toward the Arab and Islamic nation's causes, indicating that the hostile attempts against Iraq are designed to pave the way for the disintegration of the Islamic nation and the depletion of its resources.

During the meeting, which was attended by Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid, 'Abdallah Fadil affirmed the Iraqis' determination under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn to confront the conspiratorial designs aimed at undermining Iraq's sovereignty.

Message From Iraq Received

JN1709200292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Sep (INA)—Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has received a written message from [Iraqi] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah.

The message, which concerns fraternal bilateral ties and means to enhance them, was delivered by Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abdallah Fadil when Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr received him today in the presence of Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr reiterated Sudan's support for Iraq in its confrontation of the conspiratorial designs, which are aimed at undermining Iraq's unity and interfering in its domestic affairs.

Opposition Figure on Water Project, Struggle

NC1309082192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 12 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 12 Sep (MENA)—Al-Tahir 'Abdallah al-Jal, head of the Islamic Council for New Sudan [Ra'is al-Majlis al-Islami li al-Sudan al-Jadid], has affirmed that southern Sudan's relations with Egypt have historical roots. This region experienced Islam for the first time in 1935, when the first group from southern Sudan visited Egypt to study at al-Azhar University.

Al-Jal said in exclusive statements to MENA that the presence of an active member representing the southern region in the Egyptian-Sudanese Committee for Solidarity is a major political move for the region.

On the stand of the popular movement and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army regarding digging the Jonglei Canal, he clarified that this is considered a vital project for the region for many reasons. If this canal is dug, 24 billion cubic meters of water will flow into the Nile. If it is not dug, 14 billion [as received] cubic meters of water will be wasted, and this would cause flooding, turning many areas into swamp land. This, in fact, would mean the disappearance of (Funjaq) area.

Al-Tahir 'Abdallah, who currently is visiting Cairo, said the Jonglei project also is a national project, the objective of which is to develop Sudan, increase its quota of water, enlarge its agricultural area, and realize social development, stability, and security. The project was not intended to provide Egypt with water.

He noted that due to the circumstances of the war, the project has suffered from the same effects as other projects. When the war ends, this will become part of the core of Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Regarding building a new Sudan, he clarified that they are following a new trend that proceeds from the firm fact that Sudan's interests are Egypt's interests and vice-versa, and that their progress and security are mutual.

He said the issue between the two countries lies in how to best exploit water resources in the interest of the two peoples and their development and how to develop the two countries and bolster their economic and security capabilities, in addition to other such issues to confront future challenges.

Al-Tahir 'Abdallah called on Arab brothers and Muslim friends to help the Sudanese opposition in its attempts to eliminate the current regime in Sudan and establish a democratic regime that believes in pluralism and human rights.

He affirmed that the struggle in Sudan is not a struggle between Islam and Christianity, but a struggle for human rights and the establishment of justice and equality. The problem will continue to exist as long as the ruling authority insists on portraying it as a religious problem.

Regarding the al-Bashir government's recent announcement about expelling a number of missionaries from southern Sudan, he clarified that the human rights' violations inside the city of Juba continue and that the popular defense militias of the Islamic Front are torturing and killing innocent people under the pretext that they support the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement. They use the United Nation's food supplies politically and religiously, he said. Information about all these operations is being leaked by the people inside. The Islamic Front government, however, believes the missionaries are watching its activities, since they are conscientious people who would convey to the world what is happening. They do not want the world to learn about the crimes they are committing in the south.

Bahrain

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Arrives

JN1609170192 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Manama, Sep. 16 (GNA)—The U.S. Deputy of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral David E. Jeremiah and his accompanying delegation arrived in Manama today on a several days private visit to Bahrain.

He was received at the airport by Bahraini Assistant Chief of Staff for Supply Colonel Ahmd 'Abd-al-Karim Bu 'Alai, the U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain Charles Hostler, U.S. Central Navy Commander Admiral Renour Taylor and other Bahraini top military officers.

This visit comes within the framework of upgrading friendly relations between the two countries.

Kuwait

Current, Planned Military Maneuvers Detailed

LD1709140792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0704 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Kuwait, 17 Sep (KUNA)—AL-QABAS today quoted a Kuwaiti military official as having said that a French military delegation will shortly visit Kuwait to coordinate arrangements for joint Kuwait-French military maneuvers within the framework of implementing the defense agreement recently signed by Kuwait and France.

Staff Colonel Muhammad Jasim al-Sirri, director of moral guidance in the Kuwaiti Army, revealed to AL-QABAS that joint Kuwaiti-British air force maneuvers will be held at the end of this year.

Maneuvers began yesterday in northern Kuwait at (?Ideri') al-Khilleh with the participation of 1,750 soldiers accompanied by 96 tanks and armored vehicles. It will last for eight days within the framework of the "Integrated Action" maneuver, the largest maneuver since the liberation of Kuwait.

Iraqi Authorities Disrupt Return of Property

LD1709101192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Sep—KUNA learned today that the return of Kuwaiti property from Iraq via Saudi Arabia's 'Ar'ar region stopped recently because of obstacles created by the Iraqi regime.

On the other hand, a new center is being set up at al-'Abdali for the assembly of Kuwaiti property received from the Iraqi authorities in the Safwan region.

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Discusses GCC Meeting, Somalia, Bosnia

LD1609205892 Riyadh SPA in English 1920 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Jeddah, Sept 14, SPA—The Saudi Council of Ministers expressed its full satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC countries, Egypt and Syria, in Doha last week.

The council, in its regular weekly session under the chairmanship of Crown Prince Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the national guard, here on Monday described the outcome of the Doha meeting as successful and good as they form the base for cooperation among the signatories of the Damascus Declaration in all fields.

After the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said in a statement to SPA said at the outset of the meeting the council listened to a report by Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the results of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC countries, Egypt and Syria in Doha.

The council reviewed a summary of reports pertaining to most significant events at Arab and international fronts, al-Sha'ir said.

In this connection, Prince Abdallah highlighted the efforts undertaken by the kingdom under the leadership of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to maintain the stability of the Middle East.

Prince Abdallah said King Fahd was pursuing his intensive efforts and constant contacts with all concerned parties to stop bloodshed in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Kabul.

Regarding the land and airlift of relief aid to Somalia, Prince Abdallah said shipments of supplies and medicines donated by the Kingdom and its people to the Somali people were continuing and were helping greatly in alleviating the suffering of the Somali people.

The council also took note of some local issues on its agenda and referred them to the council's general committee for drafting and presenting to the council in its next meeting, al-Sha'ir said.

Supreme Council Condemns 'Memorandum of Advice'

LD1709190292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1555 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 17 Sep (SPA)—The Supreme Ulema Council has issued the following statement:

A statement by the Supreme Ulema Council: Praise be to the God of all beings. Prayers and peace be upon the

most honorable of messengers, our Prophet Muhammad and upon his family, companions and followers until doomsday.

The Supreme Ulema Council, meeting in its 39th session at al-Ta'if in the month of Rabi' al-Awwal, 1413 of the Hegira [September 1992], has perused the memorandum written under the heading "A Memorandum of Advice," addressed to the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd], may God grant him success, and signed by a number of teachers and Islamic theology students, and notes the false allegations published by some foreign papers to the effect that Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz, the director general of the Administrations for Religious Studies, Religious Rulings, Islamic Call and Guidance, endorsed it and submitted it to the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The Council has found that the memorandum consists of 10 articles, and notes that those who prepared it claimed in it that the situation in the country is in the state they described and proposed what they called ways to redress that situation.

After considering and discussing the aforementioned memorandum of Advice, the Council decided to issue this statement in which it denounces the falsehoods contained in the memorandum, which are contrary to the real conditions, and the way the memorandum was prepared and disseminated.

The authors of the memorandum have worked in this manner to propagate the causes of division, the planting of grudges, and the creation and exaggeration of shortcomings, while completely ignoring all the good brought about by the state, a fact which shows the ill-intentions or ignorance of those who prepared the memorandum and shows they deceived some into signing it; thus the memorandum came only to serve the interests of rancorous enemies, who published it in their newspapers under broad banner headlines describing the state in the worst terms.

While denouncing this action represented in the preparation of this memorandum entitled "A Memorandum of Advice," and its dissemination, the Supreme Ulema Council affirms that this action conflicts with the methods of religious advice and what is required in terms of fairness in words and deeds, as well as following the way of the Prophet of God's prayers—peace be upon him—and the way he used to offer advice to all Muslims in a manner that would realize good and check evil and rally hearts and unify ranks in accordance with God's saying: "And you all cling to God's rope and do not divide" [Koranic verse]; as well as the sayings of the Messenger of God, God's prayers and peace be upon him: "God expects from you three things: To worship him, not claim partners in deity with him and to cling to his rope, never divide, and give advice to those whom God has entrusted with your affairs;" and such scriptures which denote the importance of advice in religion and the way it is given and the need for the creation of the means for harmony and the shunning of all things that create elements for division and sedition and sow the seeds of partisanship and quarrels which bring nothing but evil to the country and to the nation.

While stressing the necessity of exchanging advice, understanding and cooperating on piety, and refraining from sin aggression, the Council warns against this injustice and tyranny and denial of rights; it also warns against the various deviationist ideological links and against commitment to the principles of foreign groups and parties, as the [Islamic] nation in this country should be one group adhering to what our good predecessors and their followers [believed in] and following what the imams of Islam, past and present, believe in—that one should not break away from the fold and should always provide true advice, not create blemishes, and not talk about them.

While denouncing this memorandum proceeding from the aforementioned, we do not claim perfection for ourselves. We ask God Almighty to render our guardians successful in the manner which pleases him, and for the good of the people and the country. We also beseech God Almighty to render all guardians of Muslims and their peoples successful. May God's prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his kith and kin.

[Issued by] The Supreme Ulema Council:

'Abd al-Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz, chairman of the session;

'Abdallah Khayyat (absent for medical reasons);

'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Salih (absent for medical reasons);

Ibrahim Bin-Muhammad al-Shaykh (absent for medical reasons)

'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Afifi (absent for medical reasons);

Sulayman Bin-'Ubayd (absent for medical reasons);

Muhammad Ibrahim Bin-Jubayr

Salih Bin-'Ali Bin-Ghusun (absent for medical reasons);

'Abd-al-Majid Hasan (absent for medical reasons);

Rashid Bin-Salih Bin-Khanin;

'Abdallah Bin-Salman Bin-Mani';

Salih Bin-Muhammad al-Lihaydan;

'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Ghadyan;

Salih Bin-Fawzan al-Fawzan;

Muhammad Bin-Salih al-Uthaymin;

' Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bassam;

Hasan Bin-Ja'far al-Utmi;

' Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al al-Shaykh

Cabinet Agrees To Double Contribution to Bank

LD1809084692 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1525 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 14 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, chaired a cabinet meeting at the Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the session, Information Minister Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA that "At the start of today's session, the cabinet heard a report by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, on the results of the meeting in Doha [Qatar] of the foreign ministers of the eight signatory states of the Damascus Declaration and the resolutions and recommendations adopted at the meeting."

In this respect, the cabinet expressed deep satisfaction with the good results achieved at the Doha meeting which will help the move toward joint cooperation between the member states of the Declaration in various fields and within the framework of the Arab League. [passage omitted]

With regard to Somalia, Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz stated that the relief aid and medical equipment offered by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its citizens to the Somali people is continuing to be delivered by air and by land. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers agreed that the minister of finance and national economy, or anyone acting in his behalf, will discuss with the French Government the signing of an agreement to promote and protect investment between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of France and that the Ministry of Finance and National Economy will present the results of these discussions to the Council of Ministers.

According to a letter from the minister of finance and national economy and after examining Resolution 199 adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1980, the Cabinet agreed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will increase its contribution to the capital of the Islamic Development Bank, fixed in Resolution MM/A-H/3-413 by the Board of Governors, by an amount equal to its present contribution to the same capital. [sentence as received] This increase is estimated at 147,657,000 Islamic dinars. The Ministry of Finance and National Economy will have to pay the amount in 10 equal and annual instalments in accordance with the provisions of the resolution approved by the Board of Governors.

New Justice Minister Appointed by Decree

LD1709134292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2120 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 16 Sep (SPA)—A royal decree has been issued appointing Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-Muhammad-Bin-Ibrahim al al-Shaykh as minister of justice. [passage omitted]

Yemen

National Conference Seen as 'Trial of Regime'

PM1609114192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 92 pp 1, 4

[Hammud Munsir and Lutfi Shatarah report: "National Conference in Yemen Turns Into Trial of Regime"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden—The proceedings of the general national conference for political parties and organizations opened in Sanaa yesterday with the participation of 18 parties out of 22, and 32 organizations out of 46. This is in addition to the participation of the Higher Coordination Council and a large number of personalities, intellectuals, professors of Sanaa and Aden Universities, and prominent ulema.

But the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] boycotted the conference and told the preparatory committee that its position was prompted by its commitment to the position of its partner in power, the General People's Congress [GPC]. [passage omitted]

The opening session of the national conference witnessed something like a trial of the regime in Yemen, especially the post-unity stage.

'Ali Sayf Hasan, member of the Central Committee of the Nasirite People's Unionist Organization, delivered a speech on behalf of the political parties and organizations, in which he said: Despite the achievement of the great unionist victory, we are all still suffering from the domination of the centers of corruption and destruction. And the backward separatist ideas, dictatorial mentality, and arrogance still control our national issues and subject them to their narrow personal interests."

Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Facil, member of the Committee for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms, emphasized that this conference is being held at a time when all the Yemeni people are sensing the danger and the worsening of the crisis at the top of the authority as a result of the conflicts between its two parties (the YSP and GPC).

He denied that the aim of the conference is to oppose the authority, but, rather, to try to correct it and persuade it through dialogue to abandon corruption and disorder and to stop the policies of preying on the homeland's interests and its security and economy. [passage omitted]

Conflicting Reports on Death of Speaker's Guards

PM1509135692 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 92 p 1

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Attack on Yemeni House of Representatives Speaker's House; Two of Yasin Nu'man's Guards Killed in Explosion"]

[Excerpt] Aden—The evening of the day before yesterday an explosive charge exploded near the house of

Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives. The target was the position of his personal guards.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that two guards were killed in the incident and that Yemeni security organs have formed a committee to investigate the incident.

There are conflicting reports about the incident which led to the guards' death. One report says that a bomb was thrown at the residence of Dr. Nu'man's guards, killing two of them, despite the fact that the street leading to the Yemeni parliament speaker's house is closed. Whereas another report says that the incident occurred when Dr. Nu'man's guards were conducting the regular maintenance of their arms and ammunition. [passage omitted]

'Serious' Rift Between 'Udayy, Ramadan Reported

NC1709142692 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1718 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The regime is caving in under the combined pressure of internal economic and political pressure and international isolation. The regime's upper echelons are divided over domestic and external policies and the way to run the country. The divisions surfaced following the mother of disasters, which led to the destruction of Iraq and the starvation of its people.

According to well-informed sources, a serious dispute has developed between 'Udayy Saddam and [former Defense Minister] Husayn Kamil on the one hand, and [Vice President] Taha Yasin Ramadan on the other hand. Ramadan has taken part in some international conferences lately and defended the regime's policies. However, differences became apparent in press reports and party meetings. 'Udayy made scathing remarks about Ramadan in comments to the press and at conferences, particularly during the Iraqi Youth Association elections. In one instance, 'Udayy insulted Ramadan in an unequivocal manner, but the latter could not return the insult.

There are strong rumors that Saddam Husayn is pressing Ramadan to resign, but the resignation has not been announced for unknown reasons.

The regime is in the throes of its own contradictions and mistakes. Its leaders are divided on everything, except the determination to destroy the Iraqi people and their future and condemn the country to a life of humiliation and misery due to the international resolutions against the criminal regime and its henchmen.

'Udayy Calls Execution 'Fruitless'

NC1709163392 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The outcast regime is gripped with panic and political chaos. In an exposed information farce, 'Udayy has criticized his father's regime for executing 42 merchants in July. The executions were carried out to contain the people's wrath against the tyrant and his regime.

The newspaper BABIL, which 'Udayy controls, said yesterday that his father's crime against the merchants, committed under the pretext that they were involved in profiteering, is fruitless. The paper admitted that the crime has created public sympathy with the merchants and strengthened the people's ranks against the outcast regime.

Government Said Preparing New Military Offensive

LD1709172292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Following the publication of a number of reports indicating the intensification of attacks by the forces of the Iraqi regime against the Muslim people in the south of that country, the latest reports indicate that the [Iraqi] regime intends to launch a large-scale offensive against the defenseless people of that country.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] today announced that patients have been evacuated from all of Baghdad's hospitals and added: The Baghdad regime usually carries this out before any military activity. The evacuation of Baghdad's hospitals can be the prelude to a new military initiative with heavy casualties.

Opposition To Meet, Set Up Rival Government

PM1709161192 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Sep 92 pp 1, 8

[Salih al-Ashmar and Najah Muhammad 'Ali reports: "Iraqi Opposition to Hold Its Conference in Irbil; Names Three Leaderships for a Government To Be Based in al-Basrah"]

[Excerpts] Salih al-Ashmar from Paris; Najah Muhammad 'Ali from Tehran; SAWT AL-KUWAYT, London—Iraqi opposition sources in northern Iraq, Damascus, and Tehran have confirmed that there is an almost final agreement that the opposition will hold its conference in Irbil, northern Iraq, and that a government will emerge from that conference and will be based in al-Basrah in southern Iraq. [passage omitted]

It was reported yesterday that the Iraqi armed opposition had carried out several operations against the Iraqi regime and its institutions. In the biggest of these operations a unit stormed Balad airfield in the Tikrit district, blew up two Mig-23 aircraft, and killed pilots 'Ali 'Ayid and Husayn Shakir.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi opposition factions are continuing their contacts aimed at setting up the Iraqi leadership which will fill the vacuum in the marshlands after the withdrawal of the regime's forces from there. The contacts also cover preparations for the opposition's expanded meeting on 20 September in Irbil.

Now to some other details. Islamic Revolution mujahidin have ambushed an EVA-type military vehicle belonging to the 47th Brigade on the Bahlah-al-Shatt road, killing five of the regime's soldiers including Lieutenant General Sa'd Baqir of the brigade's commando force. The mujahidin also shelled the regime's headquarters in al-Majarr al-Kabir district in al-'Amarah Governorate for one and a half hours. The Iraqi opposition also laid an ambush on the Qal'at Salih road in al-'Amarah. They killed a number of intelligence officers who were

traveling in a civilian car, two of whom worked in the office of Saddam's eldest son 'Udayy. One was a first lieutenant and the other a lieutenant.

The Islamic Revolution's mujahidin also also attacked the headquarters of the 4th Corps on the al-Maymunah road in the Abu-al-Sab' area in al-'Amarah. They hit and destroyed the corps' protection units, killing 20 of Saddam's forces and taking prisoner 15 others, who are still in oppostion hands inside Iraq. The opposition also attacked the criminal Sadiq, one of Saddam Husayn's henchmen, in the al-Baradi'iyah area in al-Basrah Governorate, killing him and burning three positions used by him and other security men. [passage omitted]

In London, informed sources have told SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the expanded Iraqi opposition meeting called by Kurdish Leader Mas'ud Barzani will be held as planned on 20 September in Irbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, even if some invited factions do boycott it. The aim will be to draw up a unified framework and a joint program of action for the Iraqi opposition.

Informed sources in Tehran have quoted Muhammad Bahr-al-'Ulum, a member of the Iraqi National Congress Executive Committee, who is now in the Iranian capital to try to persuade the Iraqi Islamic forces based in Tehran to attend the meeting, as saying that the meeting and arrangements that will stem from it "will go ahead" even if some parties refuse to participate. SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that Ayatollah al-Hakim has agreed in principle to attend the meeting in person or through representatives, but the final position will be determined in the light of the formula being worked out for the higher committee that will lead the Iraqi opposition in the future. As regards the al-Da'wah Party, whose leadership is holding a series of meetings in the Iranian cities of Tehran and Qom, its position will not be known before the conclusion of these meetings in the next two days. According to sources close to the meeting, however, "the general inclination is to participate."

According to sources in the Iraqi National Congress and Iraqi Islamic opposition forces, the talks held by Bahr-al-'Ulum and his Executive Committee colleague Hani al-Fukayki in Tehran focused on the formula for the leadership body that will emerge from the Irbil meeting. Several options were discussed, including the formation of a higher political command to manage the affairs of the opposition and supervise the work of a provisional government that would administer the safe havens in northern and southern Iraq. That command would consist of three figures: A Shiite (Ayatollah al-Hakim is a candidate), a Sunni (Dr. Salah al-Shaykhli of the Iraqi National Accord leadership is a candidate), and a Kurd (Kurdish Leader Mas'ud Barzani is a candidate). According to the sources of this information, this formula was proposed by the Iraqi National Congress, accepted by al-Hakim, and rejected by the al-Da'wah Party, which found itself excluded. The sources say that another formula proposed during the talks called for the formation of a political command consisting of seven members including three Shiites, two (Arab) Sunnis, and two Kurds, but al-Da'wah rejected it on the grounds that it would mean that the representation of the Shiites, who constitute the majority of the Iraqi population, would be reduced, as the two Kurdish reprsentatives would also be Sunnis. That would mean four Sunnis and three Shiites. [passage omitted]

Plan To Kill Opposition Figures Abroad Described

NC1709202092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn has prepared a plan to carry out extensive assassinations of opposition figures. In remarks published today, opposition sources said they have seized documented information on the ostracized regime's terrorist plan. In addition to assassinations, the plan calls for blowing up the headquarters and assembly centers of some opposition factions.

The ostracized tyrant's regime recently dispatched groups of his agents to European capitals with forged passports to carry out these terrorist acts.

Iranian 'Agent' Killed; 2 Detained in Break-In

NC1609132592 Paris AFP English 1226 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 16 (AFP)—Security guards killed an Iranian "agent" and detained two others when they tried to break into the offices of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO], Iran's main opposition group, a spokesman for the dissidents said.

Farid Soleyman told reporters here that a fourth man escaped during the early Wednesday break-in attempt.

"They tried to enter one of the Mojahedin offices. Our security guards discovered them ... two were arrested and one killed," Soleyman said.

The Iraqi authorities now hold the two captured men, he added.

Soleyman said he did not know the nationality of the men, but described them as "agents of the clerical regime of Iran."

The Iraqi authorities have been asked to "take necessary political and security arrangements" to prevent such "terrorist attacks", he said.

The Baghdad-based Mojahadin-e Khalq, an armed opposition group led by Mas'ud Rajavi, was outlawed by Iran in 1981.

Rebel Radio Reports Services Diminishing

NC1609194792 Al-Sulaymaniyah Iraq Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1712 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Dear listeners: The Baghdad regime has deployed scores of military and security checkpoints along the boundaries of the safe haven area marked by the 32d parallel. Personnel manning these checkpoints stop travelers and question them about why they are traveling.

Our sources report that the regime has begun to freeze most of its administrative institutions, moving archives and official documents from the southern to central Iraq. The regime has also stopped most of the construction and development projects in the south and is preventing vehicles transporting foodstuffs from going heading south of the 32d parallel.

The regime has disconnected telephone and wireless communication between central and southern Iraq and has halted all postal service to the south. The measures come amid rumors that once the regime feels that the southern area is slipping out of its control it will impose a blockade on the entire area.

Officials Meet With Southern Governorate Leaders

Prime Minister in al-Basrah

JN1709153692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, member of the Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has relayed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the residents of the al-Basrah Governorate, as well as his wishes of continued pride and victory for them.

During a meeting today with heads of administrative units, department chiefs, and chairmen and officials of mass and professional organizations and people's councils in the al-Basrah Governorate, the prime minister said: Al-Basrah has a special place in the leader's heart and also in the psyches of all lofty Iraqis. This special place has been nurtured by the sacrifices made by its residents and also by their courageous patriotic stands in the glorious Saddam al-Qadisiyah battle and in the eternal showdown represented by the Mother of Battles.

The prime minister added: The enemies of Iraq nursed an immense delusion when they thought they could undermine the unity of the great Iraqi people. They forgot that the Iraqis in southern Iraq received with hearts filled with faith, as well as love for the homeland and the leader, thousands of tonnes of the enemies' bombs and dirty weapons of destruction that fell indiscriminately on men, women, children, and the elderly. They received these bombs indifferently, because they were willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of defending the homeland, its security, and its independence.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi affirmed that the positions demonstrated by the residents of southern governorates since the revolution of the 1920's have always been marked by strong patriotic sentiments and also by love for the national soil. He added: They are the people who shed chaste blood along Iraq's impregnable borders during the second al-Qadisiyah battle and inscribed the most splendid chapters of heroism in the immortal Mother of Battles. He noted the courageous stand demonstrated by the al-Qurnah residents and their heroic confrontation of the infiltrators who came across the borders in an evil bid to undermine the unity of the Iraqi people.

The prime minister called for pooling all resources to enhance Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the blockade in order to defeat it.

As for the al-Basrah residents, they sang songs and shouted slogans pledging to leader President Saddam Husayn that their governorate will remain as invulnerable and lofty as the foreheads of its courageous men under the unique leadership of his excellency the president.

The meeting was attended by al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud, as well as the comrade secretary and members of the al-Basrah Party Branch Command.

Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi also met with al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud to learn from him about the completion rate of the projects being implemented by the governorate in implementation of the noble gesture leader President Saddam Husayn made when he visited the governorate on 1 March.

Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi also visited the al-Qurnah District. He relayed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the residents of the district, as well as his pride in their patriotic and courageous stands.

At a rally, attended by comrade Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq, member of the Iraq Command and official in charge of the southern organizations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, tribal chieftains, notables, department heads, party cadres, and officials of the people's councils in al-Qurnah, the prime minister said: The al-Qurnah residents' confrontation of the infiltrators and thwarting their criminal scheme has elicited the Iraqis' admiration and respect, as well as their pride in this noble patriotic stand. The noble gesture made by leader President Saddam Husayn to develop al-Qurnah is an honor and an added responsibility that requires efforts to turn instructions into a jihad status marked by constant preparedness and vigilance to rout the enemies' conspiracies and protect the city from the evil of the treasonous infiltrators.

Information Minister in al-Qurnah

JN1609172892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has met with the officer in charge of al-Qurnah district in the al-Basrah Governorate, as well as the comrade secretary and members of al-Qurnah branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry. During the meeting, it was decided to develop the al-Qurnah district transmission station and to build a house for arts and culture, as well as a public library and supply it with the necessary books. It has also been decided to provide citizens in the district with television antennas and a sufficient number of daily newspapers and weekly magazines. [passage omitted]

Russian 'Nationalist' Delegation Meets Officials

Confers With Ramadan

JN1709142292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, today received a delegation of Russian nationalist forces led by Mrs. Saji Omlatova [name as received], which is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan said the Iraqi people under the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn have forged miracles during the reconstruction drive by pooling their resources and creative energies in defiance of the blockade imposed by the hateful and failed enemies.

The vice president affirmed that any country that depends on the intrinsic potential of its sons for internal development is a strong and rich country, whereas countries dependent on foreign aid remain subservient, backward, and vulnerable. As for the peoples of such countries, Ramadan added, they continue to suffer all kinds of deprivation and hunger.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the steadfastness of the courageous Iraqis, their great willingness to defend their homeland, and their strong unity will thwart all links of the new hostile U.S.-British-French alliance aimed at imposing a hateful colonialist policy on Iraq. He noted that free peoples are stronger than all the tactics used by colonialist despots.

As for Mrs. Saji Omlatova, she affirmed that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is a historic leader, because he rejected the U.S.-allied policy and courageously and wisely safeguarded the unity of Iraq—people and territory—at a time when superpowers were divided into statelets. She pointed out that the U.S. policy has been shown as one that is aimed at dividing peoples in order to impose its hegemony and domination.

Received by Hammadi

JN1809062992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1956 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has affirmed that the conspiracy the United States and its allies seek to implement to partition Iraq has mobilized Iraq's sons and has made them reaffirm, more than ever, their deep commitment to the homeland and their genuine rallying around President Saddam Husayn's unique historic leadership.

At his meeting with a delegation of Russian nationalist forces led by Mrs. Saji Omlatova [name as received], the information minister said that the wager the Americans have placed on the sons of our people in the south is a losing one.

Hammadi then reviewed the treacherous designs of criminal Bush and his two allies against Iraq and the dimensions of the conspiracy which seeks to harm Iraq and plunder its resources. He continued by highlighting the efforts the industrious Iraqis are exerting to rebuild what the enemies destroyed during their 30-state aggression against Iraq.

Mrs. Omlatova showed admiration for what the zealous Iraqis have achieved, in terms of their heroic confrontation of the 30-state aggression and their great achievements in the reconstruction drive Iraq is undergoing.

'Aziz Discusses Arab Affairs With Algerian Group

JN1709201492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, has received a delegation of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria led by Khaled Ben Isma'il [name as received], secretary general of the movement.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the current Arab state of affairs, the dangers posed to all Arabs, and the flagrant hostile anti-Iraq scheme, which seeks to undermine Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and national unity.

Khaled Ben Isma'il expressed the Algerian people's solidarity with and support for Iraq—leadership and people—in their confrontation of the evil conspiracy, which targets not only Iraq but the entire Arab nation.

Army Service for Kurds Born in 1974 Postponed

JN1609112592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Sep (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decree postponing

until further notice the compulsory army service of conscripts of the Autonomous Region born in 1974.

The following is the text of the decree:

"Decree"

In accordance with the provisions enshrined in Paragraph "A" of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. The compulsory army service of conscripts of the Autonomous Region born in 1974 shall be postponed until further notice.

2. The competent authorities shall see to the implementation of this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Government Reacts to Claims of Impasse With Syria

Rabin Says Rumors 'Premature'

TA1709202692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this evening that it is premature to speak about a dead end in the talks with the Syrian delegation and that we should wait to see how things develop. The prime minister reiterated that Israel would not discuss territorial issues before the Syrians clarified their definition of peace. We demand full peace with open borders and diplomatic relations, without this being conditional on agreement in the other tracks. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the prime minister made these statements before the Jerusalem Bar Association at a ceremony marking the start of the judicial year, in reaction to the reports that the Syrian delegation in Washington was claiming that the talks had reached an impasse.

Meanwhile, the Likud Knesset faction published an announcement demanding that the prime minister not capitulate to Syrian pressure. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht was told that if Rabin opposes the Syrian demands, the Likud promises that it will provide him with a safety net in the Knesset against any pressures from the left.

Possible U.S. Intervention Seen

TA1809081792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Sep 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Drora Perl in Washington and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] In reaction to the reports about difficulties in the Washington talks, the Prime Minister's Office has stated that "yesterday's developments in the negotiations with Syria are not a real crisis. They should be viewed as part of the negotiating tactics."

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said that "progress in the negotiations must not be judged on a daily basis. The Syrian declarations do not constitute a new stage in the negotiations, and it is reasonable to assume that the negotiations will resume next week as planned." The sources added that the Syrian call on the Americans to intervene openly in the discussions should be seen in view of this moderate estimate. "This was not a real and formal appeal," they said.

Last week, State Department officials held discussions with the heads of the various delegations in Washington which, Israeli sources believe, managed to bring about what seemed to be the rapprochement between the Israeli and Syrian stands. The sources added that at this stage, it is reasonable to assume that the United States will continue working behind the scenes and will not assume a leading role in the negotiations.

Nevertheless, if it becomes apparent that the gaps between Israel and Syria are unbridgeable, the sources believe that the United States would have to intervene—not before it obtains Israel's agreement. [passage omitted]

No Official Comment on Rabin-al-Asad Meeting

TA1709182892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The East Jerusalem Arabic language newspaper AL-QUDS reported today that Prime Minister Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad are expected to hold an unprecedented meeting soon in Morocco. There was no official comment from Jerusalem or Damascus. A source in Rabin's office said he was not aware of any planned meeting, but he noted the prime minister's offer, in an address before the Knesset in July, to meet Arab leaders anywhere, anytime.

Der'i, Rabbis Support Rabin Golan Policy

TA1709201392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Rabbi Eli'ezer Menahem Schach and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef believe that Israel can cede the Golan Heights in return for peace. Rabbi Schach today told his close followers that most contemporary rabbinical authorities feel that the divine precept to settle Eretz Yisra'el does not apply to the Golan Heights. He recalled that, at the time, he had opposed the Golan Law because it is forbidden to provoke the nations of the world. As for the opinion of Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, Interior Minister Arye Der'i said that he had received instructions from the rabbi to support the peace efforts, even at the price of territorial concessions. The SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader believes that if the nation's stewards have ruled that Israel's withdrawal from territories will prevent future wars, then the sanctity of human life takes precedence over the sanctity of the land. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen spoke with Minister Der'i.

[Begin recording] [Der'i] Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef has weighed the sanctity of the land versus the sanctity of human life. When one considers which takes precedence, or which consideration should be preferred, then the Halakah rules that the sanctity of human life is the supreme value. This is conditional on the fact that one is really acting out of security considerations and in order to save lives.

[Hen] Do Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef and SHAS support the government's peace policy?

[Der'i] I had a very long conversation on this matter with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef yesterday. I briefed him and also asked for instructions as to how to act in the future. What I can say from the conversation is that Rabbi Yosef told me that he fully supports Prime Minister Rabin's policy in the negotiations. Clearly, when progress is made I will have to consider future decisions with him; however, he is up to date on the smallest details, and he gave me and Mr. Rabin the go-ahead to pursue the

negotiations. At least on the surface, and even on the basis of intelligence assessments, it seems that there has been a change in the Arab world in light of international developments, because of the collapse of the Soviet Union, and this should be exploited. Perhaps the situation will change in a year or two because of extreme elements in the Arab countries.

How will we be able to look our children in the eye afterward, when we had a chance to make peace and prevent tens of thousands of casualties and we failed to do it because of prejudice or other reasons. I think that all the criticism leveled against Mr. Rabin, to the effect that he has already given up on the Golan Heights and northern Israel, is totally wrong. I am familiar with the prime minister's opinions, and I know his viewpoint regarding the Golan Heights. Anyone who believes that someone else would do a better job of keeping the Golan is wrong. As someone who is familiar with a great deal of leading Likud opinion, I can state that the Likud would find it much easier to make concessions on the Golan than Mr. Rabin. Therefore, we can be confident that when Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister, launches negotiations and says that this is what I could get and this is what I recommend we do, then I am not sure that anyone else could achieve better results, unless they had given up on the negotiations from the very beginning.

We heard [Tzomet leader] Refa'el Eytan say yesterday that he would not enter negotiations but rather ask the Syrians what they would pay Israel in return for peace. Anyone who thinks that these media gimmicks are serious is simply misleading everybody and assuming a grave responsibility for what will happen in the future. [end recording]

Poll Finds Majority Opposes Return of All Golan

TA1809113192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Sep 92 p 1

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] Question: What arrangement on the Golan Heights should Israel agree to in return for a full peace agreement, similar to the agreement with Egypt, and includes security arrangements? [figures in percentages]

No part of the Golan Heights returned, under any condition—50.

Return a small part of the Golan Heights—34.

Return a significant part of the Golan Heights—9.

Return all of the Golan Heights—6.

No reply—1.

Question: Should Israel remove Golan Heights settlements in return for a full peace?

Remove no settlements—65.

Remove some of the settlements—29.

Remove all of the settlements—6.

The poll was conducted by telephone between 14 and 16 September 1992 and covered 582 interviewees constituting a representative sample of the adult Israeli Jewish population, with the exclusion of kibbutzim residents.

Rabin Urged To Put Jerusalem on Talks Agenda

TA1709132592 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Sep 92 p 9

[Commentary by Avner Regev: "Ms. Williamson Has Left for Washington"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The tangible possibility that has emerged in recent days concerning the reinstatement of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights may prove to be a sign that the issue of Jerusalem is also about to come under discussion. Rabin realizes that he will find it difficult to solve the Palestinian problem without finding some kind of solution to the issue of Jerusalem. He will almost certainly be required to find a way to include East Jerusalem Arabs in the political process. Without that, nothing will be finalized in Washington. The Palestinian leadership in the territories cannot forgo a discussion of the city's future, and the Arab demand to put Jerusalem on the agenda is now more imminent than ever.

Developments which seemed totally unfeasible merely a few months ago are taking form before our very eyes. It is very likely that the Syrian and Israeli foreign ministers will meet soon, and if the talks make significant progress, an encounter between al-Asad and Rabin may take place as well. In these meetings, too, the issue of Jerusalem is most likely to be raised. Al-Asad is not concerned about the Palestinians. Neither is he concerned with their having or not having autonomy. Yet he will deem it important to promote the issue of Jerusalem, thus making his contribution to the Muslim world and the Palestinian part thereof, at the same time signaling to Saudi Arabia. The autonomy agreement was a result of the agreement with Egypt. Al-Asad may demand a declaration of intent concerning Jerusalem in conjunction with the agreement on the Golan Heights, with the Americans serving as guarantors.

Contrary to the previous government's stand, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has agreed to allow East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the elections to the autonomy council. It is safe to assume that Rabin will consent to the next step, that of granting extraterritorial status to Jerusalem's holy sites. We may see a Jordanian or a Saudi flag flying over Temple Mount very soon. The Jordanians will possibly claim, for instance, that they are a part of the agreement on the city's future. In parallel, we may also see the Vatican flag above the Church of the Holy Sepulcher—a move that will be aimed at eliciting

the sympathy of the Christian world. With these steps, Rabin would signal his willingness to arrive at real peace.

The reply to the move's opponents—if any—will be that these gestures will not diminish Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem, which will remain unified forever.

In the next stage of the political process, East Jerusalem Arabs may be given a chance to organize in residential quarters that will manage their own municipal affairs while maintaining a link with a joint-roof municipality. The idea, which was raised by Teddy Kollek, is close to the thinking of the prime minister, who has made remarks in this spirit. This is also why Rabin will gladly see Kollek remain Jerusalem mayor: He needs his assistance in the implementation of the idea in the course of the autonomy debates.

The establishment of these quarters, and the decision to permit the Arab residents of East Jerusalem to participate in the elections for the autonomy council, would be enough at this stage to satisfy the aspirations of the Palestinians, and definitely those of the Syrians.

Approximately one month ago, when the negotiating teams set out for Washington, the staff of the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem remained in town. The staffers at the consulate, who are the unofficial "coaches" of the Palestinian delegation, estimated with good reason that nothing would happen during the first two weeks in Washington. Last Friday, Consul Molly Williamson left for Washington to assist the Palestinian delegation in its talks with Israel.

The consul's presence in the United States indicates one of two things: either there are some problems among the members of the Palestinian delegation, which requires the appropriate U.S. intervention; or else the negotiations have entered a stage in which real issues are being discussed, with the uniqueness of the Jerusalem issue featuring prominently among them. Up to now, the U.S. consul has proven that she can be of help at critical moments, and her presence in Washington will help the Palestinians overcome their desire to place Jerusalem on the public agenda of the negotiations already at this stage.

Even today, the United States has not recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Moreover, Washington does not recognize the unification of the city and considers the new neighborhoods, built after 1967, as bona fide settlements. The attempt to place Jerusalem on the agenda already at this stage may neutralize many obstacles, and—contrary to the prevailing view—may help promote the discussions with the Palestinians, as well as with the Jordanians and the Syrians.

Qian Says Sale of Nuclear Arms in Region To Stop

TA1709175192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Report by Dan Eshel]

[Text] In the hour-long meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, described by the prime minister's media adviser as good, the prime minister once again raised Israel's request that the PRC stop selling arms to the Arab countries. In his reply, the Chinese foreign minister declared that his country will not do anything to hinder the peace process. Consequently, he said, the PRC will no longer sell any weapons to countries in the Middle East.

Qian Qichen thanked the prime minister for his decision not to sell Kfir planes to Taiwan. For his part, Mr. Rabin said he hopes the tension between the PRC and the United States over the sale of F-16's to Taiwan will not affect Israel's relations with China.

Rabin said he believes in direct and open relations between the two countries in areas of common interest. The visiting minister noted Israel's excellent relations throughout the world and its advanced technology, and expressed his belief that the combination of these two elements have excellent economic potential. He noted that China, with its huge population, is very interested in cooperation between the two countries.

Qian Qichen said the PRC supports the policy of the new Israeli government in the negotiations for peace in the Middle East. According to him, the changes all over the world have created opportunities for peace in our region. Nevertheless, he added, a great deal of work clearly still awaits the two sides.

Qian handed the prime minister an invitation from his Chinese counterpart to visit China, and Rabin accepted it. No date has yet been set for the visit.

Pledge Called 'Mistranslation'

TA1809100292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Sep 92 p A3

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] A mistranslation from Chinese into English yesterday produced a contradiction between the prime minister's bureau statement that PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen had promised his country would sell no weapons to the Middle East and the clarification supplied by the Chinese delegation in reply to a question, according to which China does not totally rule out arms sales to the region. According to the Chinese, the wording employed at the minister's news conference on 16 September and during his meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is the valid one. They further assert that China takes care to supply weapons for self-defense only, and even then, it does so in limited quantities and in a manner that does not upset the balance in tense areas.

The communique issued by the prime minister's bureau in the wake of Rabin's meeting with the Chinese foreign minister in his Tel Aviv office stated that the Chinese

minister had commended the new Israeli Government's policy and the flexibility it has shown in the peace negotiations. According to the minister, China wants to see the peace process promoted and is confident the conflict can be resolved through peaceful means only.

Qian thanked Rabin for the decision not to sell Kfir aircraft to Taiwan, stressing that China would not do anything that is liable to harm the peace process. Political sources in Jerusalem noted that the political echelons' decision against selling Kfirs to Taiwan is insignificant, and that the Chinese also realized the deal could not have been carried out in any event because Taiwan had decided to purchase F-16's from the United States. [passage omitted]

Russian Media Official Yegor Yakovlev Arrives

TA1709173692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Yegor Yakovlev, President Boris Yeltsin's close aide and director general of Russia's broadcasting authority, arrived in Israel this morning to coordinate measures for a media campaign to fight surging anti-Semitism in Russia. On the eve of his departure, anti-Semites held a demonstration outside the television studios in Moscow to protest the employment of Jews in Russia's state media. Mr. Yakovlev and his two senior aides came to Israel to procure material for programs about Israel, and to make preparations for the opening of offices of Russian radio and television in Jerusalem. The three will be the guests of the Israel Broadcasting Authority and of Qol Yisra'el's International Service and Immigrant Programs.

Official Evaluates French Policy in Peace Talks

TA1709170692 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Sep 92 p A2

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Hayim Handwerker, and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] During his visit to Damascus, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas asked Syria to join the multilateral talks which began this week and will continue next month. This was reported in Paris upon the minister's return from the visit.

According to reports, the Syrians rejected the request, stressing that they would not participate in the multilateral talks until significant progress is discernible in the bilateral talks.

A senior official in Jerusalem who deals with European affairs yesterday told HA'ARETZ that France has no intention of mediating a solution to the Middle East conflict. According to him, this much emerged in the talks held in Paris by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, as well as in contacts Israel has had with France over the past 24 hours.

The official noted that France was "very impressed" with Israel's willingness to advance toward peace, and that just as it had tried to influence Israel to meet the Arabs halfway, so it will now try to influence the Arabs to take confidence-building steps, such as lifting the economic boycott on Israel.

The official went on to say that if France plays an active role in the peace process, this will be in the multilateral framework because of its experience and good will to contribute to the future stability of the region. This would be compatible with the position of the United States, which perceives Europe as a leading factor on this issue.

The official noted that relations between Israel and France underwent a substantial change in the wake of Peres' visit. A delegation of experts, headed by Foreign Ministry staffers, will soon travel to France to discuss the establishment of a joint scientific foundation, France's proposal to plan a railway and transportation system for Israel in collaboration with Germany, and computerization in schools.

The delegation will go to France at the beginning of October. Later that month, the joint French-Israeli committee will hold a session in Jerusalem to coordinate President Mitterrand's visit to Israel. The date of the visit has not yet been set, but it is believed that it will take place within approximately three months. [passage omitted]

A delegation made up of eight Palestinian businessmen and economists from the territories will soon leave on an official visit to France to hold talks with French economic officials, particularly in the Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade.

This was agreed during the visit to Israel of Dominique Strauss-Kahn, industry and foreign trade minister, last June. The exact date of the visit has not yet been set. [passage omitted]

At present, France's aid to the territories consists mainly of technical advice and the occasional visit by experts on the issue. The aid is given mainly through SIDI (Societe Internationale de Developpement Industriel). This organization operates throughout the world, mainly in the African countries. Its activities are financed by the French Government, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs giving it guidance on economic development affairs in the Third World.

Sources noted that the improvement in France's relations with the territories notwithstanding (reflected in political support and the enhancement of cultural ties), no significant breakthrough is anticipated at the moment in the format and volume of France's aid.

According to these sources, France has no intention of extending financial aid directly to the territories, seeing that according to French regulations such aid is granted only to governments. Moreover, such aid is impeded by

the absence of commercial banks in the territories authorized to trade foreign currency and invest in projects.

According to the sources, official French circles are nevertheless trying to persuade their government to comply with the Palestinians' request and expand French aid.

The sources pointed out that the Palestinian delegation does not have much chance of signing economic pacts on aid during its visit. Nevertheless, deliberations will be held with it about financing the purchase of mechanical industrial equipment and expanding the professional advice given by French experts. Apparently, France will neither extend credit lines for exports of industrial products from the territories nor help find markets for these exports.

Palestinian efforts have been evident in the past year to tighten ties with the European countries in a bid to expand their financial aid to the territories. The Palestinians also want to enhance Europe's influence in the peace process so as to counterbalance the central role played by the United States, which they perceive as being pro-Israeli.

State Budget Slashed by 185 Million Shekels

TA1309132592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Text] The prime minister, the finance minister, and the construction and housing minister have decided to slash the state budget by 185 million shekels [about $75.5 million]. Our correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that a reserve, which was set aside in order to lighten the tax burden, was diminished by 50 million shekels; a further 45 million will be cut from all the ministries' purchasing budgets; and an additional 90 million will be secured from the cancellation of the Construction and Housing Ministry's commitments to purchase houses.

Minister Ben-Eli'ezer said that the budget slash was composed on the basis of discussions with construction companies.

August Consumer Price Index Rises 0.8 Percent

TA1509190792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] The consumer price index rose by 0.8 percent in August. The rise was in line with predictions. Inflation is now running at an annual rate of less than 9 percent. Most of the rise in the index last month was due to public transport fares and housing costs.

The secretary of the Histadrut labor federation, Hayim Haberfeld, says today's index reflects the slowdown in the economy. Haberfeld said the problem is not inflation, but rather unemployment, which he said requires government action.

Kingdom Said Possible Host of Iraqi Opposition

PM1709152592 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "King Husayn Meets With Talabani"]

[Excerpt] Baghdad, London, AFP—[passage omitted] It was learned on 16 September from Iraqi opposition sources in London that King Husayn of Jordan met Monday in London with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which is one of the two main Iraqi Kurdish opposition factions in Iraq.

Sources in the Iraqi National Congress, which claims to embrace all the Kurdish opposition trends in Iraq, declined to say what went on in that meeting.

Iraqi opposition sources in Amman said that the Jordanian monarch could have given his permission for the Iraqi opposition to hold a conference in Jordan.

King Husayn is currently on a private visit to London, where he met with British Prime Minister John Major on Tuesday.

King Reportedly To Receive Israeli Arab Group

JN1709190592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] An official source at the Awqaf Department in East Jerusalem has told our correspondent Kayid Zahir that it obtained, during a recent visit to Amman, Jordanian monarch King Husayn's approval to receive a delegation of Israeli Arabs. The delegation is expected to leave the country for Jordan soon.

The source added that the delegation's visit was organized in accordance with a request from Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, Shafa 'Amr mayor, and Shaykh Tawfiq 'Asali, head of of the Islamic Court of Appeals in Israel.

Papers on Need for United Arab Stand on Peace

JN1809071292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Press review]

[Text] In their editorials today, Jordanian papers comment on the progress of the peace process in light of Israeli maneuvering. The papers stress that in the face of Israeli intransigence, Arab coordination is the only guarantee to achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace.

AL-RA'Y points out that Israel is launching a psychological war aimed at dividing the Arab negotiating position by hinting that bilateral agreements may soon be reached, particularly with Syria. The paper asserts that mutual confidence among the Arab negotiating parties will foil the Israeli scheme to drive a wedge between these parties. It says: The Arabs' past experiences with Israel dictate that they should be vigilant. They should not allow Israel to employ the negotiating process to spread suspicion and fear among them, or to deceive and tempt any Arab party into a separate solution.

AL-DUSTUR refers to Syria's position rejecting a separate and partial peace with Israel. It says: We hope all Arab parties would preserve the spirit and letter of the agreement reached by the foreign ministers of the concerned Arab parties during their meetings in Beirut, Damascus, and Amman. That agreement has led to the creation of an Arab mechanism for review, assessment, and monitoring now being implemented by the Arab delegations participating in the Washington talks. This will block the road before continuing the crossword game which Rabin is playing and will restore to the Arabs one of their most important tools of negotiating; namely, the united Arab position at the negotiations which has been established on the political ground set by the results of the meetings of foreign ministers from Arab parties concerned with the continuity and success of the peace process.

SAWT AL-SHA'B says: Israel is negotiating with the Arab parties with the spirit of an victorious occupier and refuses to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and exchange land for peace. Meanwhile, it also seeks to jump stages and reach a normalization with Arab parties without withdrawing from the occupied territories.

The paper adds: We do not believe that Syria will accept a Syrian-Israeli summit by way of French mediation before a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace is achieved on all fronts and in a way that brings about complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and guarantees the Palestinian people's national rights. As for Jordan, its negotiating team has confirmed its adherence to the stands which reject the relinquishing of any Arab right. Jordan's role to bolster and advance coordination among the Arab states bordering Israel is recognized by both brothers and friends. Jordan believes that Arab coordination is the only guarantee against partitioning the peace process and striking separate deals, through which many Arab rights would be lost.

'Izzat Ibrahim Departs After Surgery 16 Sep

JN1709104092 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 17

[Text] Amman, REUTER—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of Iraq's Revolution Command Council, yesterday left Amman for Baghdad after recovering from surgery to remove a hernia which he underwent in a Jordanian Armed Forces hospital.

A responsible source said Ibrahim spent more than two weeks in a government guest house after the simple surgery, which was performed by a special medical team flown in from Britain late last month.

Iraqi hospitals have been affected by the two-year old blockade imposed on Iraq. The shortage in hard currencies has led to difficulties in purchasing surgical equipment and medicines.

Al-Sulh Urges Tackling Election-Caused 'Rupture'

NC1809082592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh admitted that the election caused a rupture in the national accord. Speaking at a banquet in his honor, he said: We must act seriously and faithfully to tackle this rupture out of concern for our national unity. He called for keeping the lines of communication and contacts between all parties open.

He added that Lebanon is still recovering and is facing crucial developments. He stressed the need for unity on the domestic front in support of the Lebanese negotiating team in Washington.

Hizballah Said 'Deceiving Itself' About Elections

NC1809075392 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Hizballah organization is only deceiving itself by believing that the great success it thinks it scored in the recent election farce and having deputies in the sham that is the Chamber of Deputies will give it a legitimate right or even immunity to resume its terrorist actions against the border area and its population. A senior security source gave this exclusive statement to our correspondent while reviewing the lessons to be learned from the terrorist operation implemented by the Hizballah organization three days ago following a period of relative calm. In this operation, Hizballah detonated a mine under an Israeli Army patrol east of al- Nabatiyah.

According to the security source, this incident also reveals that the Lebanese Army still cannot impose its authority on the south and prevent terrorism there. It added that the relative calm in the area during the election campaign was an artificial calm to enable Hizballah to devote itself to the election battle and to avoid any damage that terrorist actions might have on the organization's popularity among the electorate in the villages north of the security strip.

Answering a question about the position of the legitimate Lebanese Army units deployed in the south, the senior military source voiced the view that these forces are now in a tight spot. Hizballah has become a partner in authority according to the new reality, but it has weapons, which exceeds the agreement reached by all the parties in the al-Ta'if charter. The best evidence of this is the quality of weapons used by the Hizballah organization in the operation east of al-Nabatiyah, weapons that undoubtedly fit the description medium weapons, which no one but the legitimate Lebanese Army has the right to possess or use.

Concluding the statement, the senior security source said: It is difficult to foretell the consequences of Hizballah's illusion under the country's new era, which is pushing Hizballah toward resuming its terrorist actions against the border area and its population.

Junblatt on Meeting Talabani, 'Protection Zones'

NC1709100592 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party Leader Walid Junblatt said that with the collapse of communism, Socialist International has become the biggest common group offering the minimum of economic and social justice. In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Junblatt, who is attending the Socialist International conference in Berlin, said: I think that if Socialist International is managed in the right way it could constitute the alternative to world communism in the general sense, the sense of democratic solidarity. [passage omitted]

About his meeting with Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, Junblatt said the purpose was to strengthen the relationship with Iraq's Kurds in particular and the Kurdish movement in general. He added: The meeting also sought to clarify some things, namely that while we support the civil, economic, and even political rights of the Kurds, we also support the unity of Iraq. Just like Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani, we are urging a change in the regime in Baghdad, bringing in a democratic one that allows everybody to play his natural, cultural, economic, and developmental role.

Junblatt said: We fear that the protection zones advocated by the West, whether in northern or southern Iraq, will mark the beginning of the division of Iraq and, consequently, the Arab world. He added: I believe Talabani and Barzani are wise enough not to subject Iraq and the Arab world to such an adventure.

'Occupation' Unit Assumes Border Strip Position

NC1709123492 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] A force from the occupation Army, comprising around 10 vehicles, including three Merkava tanks, and approximately 60 personnel assumed positions yesterday at the Shwayya post in the eastern sector of the occupied border zone after removing South Lebanese Army personnel. Elements from this force reportedly organized foot patrols on the hills northeast of the position last night.

Reports from the occupied border zone indicate that the occupation troops have tightened security near al-Khiyam prison after some prisoners escaped last week. An Israeli unit, backed up by mechanized vehicles, remains deployed near the prison. A roadblock was set up at al-Khiyam village's western entrance to the prison, where cars are being searched and passengers' identities thoroughly examined. The occupation troops also set up observation posts equipped with floodlights on the walls of the prison and in the neighborhood.

India

Leaders Arrested for Antinational Speeches

BK1809080792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, seven political leaders, including the founder of the Pattali Makkal Katchi [PMK], Dr. Ramdas; former Minister S. Ramachandran; and the leader of the Tamil National Party, Mr. P.P. Nedumaran, have been arrested. Police sources said the action follows allegations of antinational and pro-LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] speeches by these leaders at the recent PMK conference in Madras. The sources told AIR [All India Radio] Madras correspondent that 800 persons were rounded up for obstructing road traffic after the arrests.

Supreme Court Upholds Sharma's Election

BK1709161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] The Supreme Court today upheld the election of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma as the president of India. The election was upheld by a five-judge constitution bench headed by Mr. Justice J.S. Verma. The petitioners, Mr. Mithilesh Kumar and Kaka Jogendra Singh Dhartipakad, had alleged that Dr. Sharma was neither properly nominated nor his nomination papers were legally filed and accepted by the returning officer. In its 71-page judgment, the court did not find any substance in the two petitions and dismissed them.

Outlawed JKLF Kills Two Defense Personnel

BK1809090892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two defense personnel—Mr. R.K. Gai and Mr. K.R. Kannan—have been killed by the outlawed JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front]. The defense personnel were held hostage by the organization since the 3d of last month. An official spokesman expressed surprise at the action, saying that no warning was given to the authorities before killing the hostages.

Detention of Two Officers by Pakistan Protested

BK1709161792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] New Delhi has lodged a strong protest with Islamabad on its refusal to hand over two BSF [Border Security Force] noncommissioned officers who accidentally drifted away in their country boat into Pakistan while engaged in rescue operations in the flooded (Nikhi) Tawi River in Jammu and Kashmir. Both of them were unarmed. According to official sources, efforts are continuing to have these officers returned.

Diplomatic Ties To Be Established With Brunei

BK1709161992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] India and Brunei have decided to establish full-fledged diplomatic relations. This was decided during a meeting between the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the Sultan of Brunei, Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, in New Delhi today. India, which is at present operating through its high commission in Malaysia, will soon send a delegation to set up its mission in Brunei. Brunei will upgrade its resident mission in New Delhi to the high commission level. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that the two sides also agreed to exchange delegations to identify areas of mutual cooperation.

Iran

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Assembly Continues

Khamene'i Meets With Commanders

LD1709201792 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Islamic revolution leader and commander in chief, met with the commanders of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' [IRGC] five branches and the directors of the Supreme Jurisconsult's office representatives this afternoon. During the meeting, he stressed the Iranian people's historic duty against the oppression, evil, and bullying prevalent in the world.

Khamene'i described the Islamic Revolution Guards as reminders of the great mojaheds [holy warriors] of the early days of Islam and the mojaheds of the Iranian people's holy jihad during Iraq's war against Iran. He said: You revolutionary and faithful youths must complete your awareness of the conditions of the world today. You must have the correct analysis of the various events in the world.

Khamene'i described Iran's policy under the shadow of the holy Islamic religion as opposition to and struggle against any form of oppression, bullying, evil, creation of tragedies [faje-e afarini] and world arrogance, saying: When America and the Soviet Union were facing each other in two separate blocs, Iran's system condemned the Soviet Union with the same words as it condemned America in all international forums. Because in those days the Soviet Union and America agreed on this issue: enmity and hostility against Iran. Now that the rotten walls of the Eastern Bloc have fallen apart, we are not scared of the Western world since the enmity of arrogance against us has not changed.

The eminent leader referred to the main factor of global arrogance's hostility against Iran as the people's strong faith in Islam and the Islamic revolution and said: During this period of reconstruction, the people must stand against all the enemy's plots with full awareness.

They must safeguard the Islamic revolution's holy objectives and aspirations. Under current conditions, maintaining our policies and faith—and not forgetting the eternal hostility of the enemies of Islam—are of particular importance. Today, Iran's path is Islam and the path of struggle against world arrogance and oppression. We will not be stopped in this path.

Khamene'i described the IRGC as faithful, steadfast, wise, ready for action, present on the scenes of danger, and uncaring of worldly goods. He said: The IRGC has an important role in guaranteeing the survival of the revolutionary path of the society.

Continuing his speech, the eminent leader added: God Almighty has bestowed this great blessing on the Iranian people: keeping Islam alive in the world. By creating hope in the hearts of Muslims, they must be models for Muslims throughout the globe. They must foil the years-old plots of the enemies of Islam and create a rule based on the Koran and religion; therefore, the people should safeguard this blessing.

In conclusion, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i advised the assembly to pay greater attention to spiritualism and maintaining revolutionary fervor in the Guards. He stressed the need to neutralize the enemy's plot of weakening the revolutionary and spiritual nature of the Islamic society.

Nateq-Nuri's Address Noted

LD1809081892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The fifth IRGC national assembly continued its work this morning with an address by the speaker of the Majles, Mr. Nateq-Nuri.

[Unidentified corrrespondent] [passage omitted]. The Majles speaker honored the memory of the esteemed martyrs of the Islamic revolution, the imposed war, and the eight years of holy defense. He said: The IRGC should always be in a state of preparedness, bearing in mind the increasing plots hatched by global arrogance in the region and America's mischiefs in the Persian Gulf. Just as in the past, it should act as a valuable model of courage and resistance for the world's meek nations.

He stressed the need for preserving the Armed Forces' preparedness, especially our country's brave Basijis [mobilized forces] and the Guards Corps and to defend the lofty values of Islam and the holy aspirations of Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified. He said: Global arrogance's hostility toward Islam and the Islamic revolution is endless. The dear Guards Corps personnel, who sprung from the depths of the Islamic revolution, should therefore act upon the noble Koranic verse that states: Employ all your means to fight for your cause, and thus mobilize all their strength and power to confront the conspiracies of Islam's enemies.

At the end of his remarks, Nateq-Nuri declared that the Majles supports the proposed IRGC projects and praised the role of our country's earnest Basijis in the various arenas of the revolution, notably, that of the imposed war. He called for the extensive presence of these forces in reconstructing and constructing the country.

The fifth IRGC national assembly will end its work this afternoon by issuing a resolution.

Assembly Issues Resolution

LD1709164192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] In their final resolution, the IRGC assembly participants announced their readiness to implement the guidelines of the leader of the Islamic revolution about putting into practice the principle of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice. They also announced readiness to confront the West's cultural onslaught.

The resolution also strongly condemns Serbs' crimes against the oppressed Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina; the so-called peace conference between the Arab states and the Zionist regime; the internal war in Afghanistan; and world arrogance's recent plot against the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf.

In the final article of the resolution, the IRGC Guards renew their allegiance to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Armed Forces commander in chief, and stress their readiness to safeguard the supreme ideals and goals of the founder of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, and the Islamic revolution.

Editorial Discusses Government's 'Shortcomings'

PM1709141792 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 2 Sep 92 pp 2, 8

[Editorial: "On the Occasion of Government Week: An Analysis of the Weaknesses and Strengths of the Government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani"]

[Excerpts] The period between 31 August and 6 September each year has been named Government Week, which is the proper opportunity for the people to commemorate the anniversary of the martyrdom of two servants of this land, martyrs Raja'i and Bahonar. It is also a good time to review the actions of their government during the past 12 months. The general results and actions of governments and their officials, from the time of martyr Raja'i until now, have been positive and useful, but we can still see some problems and shortcomings in some of the executive policies of each of the governments in question. [passage omitted]

In reviewing the government's report card, its most important action is seen to be the constant efforts of its officials to reconstruct and make progress in the country. This includes the government's huge investments to expand the basis of social and economic institutions

such as constructing dams; highways; railroads; ports; airports; silos; large steel plants; construction industries; machine-building factories; and related industries. Mines have been equipped and completed, and there has been a huge amount of investment in the oil, gas and petrochemical industries. All these efforts are praiseworthy. [passage omitted]

Alongside the two important elements that have had a positive effect on the actions of the current government, we also see the continuing obstructionist policies from all corners of the world against the regime as a whole and, of course, against the government of the Islamic Republic. The most important elements preventing the government from achieving its goals are the continuation of some economic sanctions, including the German refusal to complete the country's nuclear power plants; the fact that Iran's assets remain frozen in the United States; hostility against Islamic Iran and unfriendly, sometimes devious confrontations by some European and Middle Eastern countries. These all indicate that, although official propaganda and the Western press all say that the Hashemi-Rafsanjani government is a moderate one, there are those politicians who consider Islam a real threat. For them Iran is still considered the biggest source of Islamic revolutionary ideas. This is why they seriously believe that in general, for as long as the Islamic regime exists in Iran, this country is considered the symbol of revolution and hostility to the world's aggressors; therefore, it is very natural that they would not want to establish friendly, cooperative ties with Iran and that, on the other hand, Iran would never be able to trust them.

Although the government's overall actions could be considered positive and even though the results of analyses indicate a relatively bright future, there are some crticisms that could be made of the current government's actions. [passage omitted]

One point to remember is that, if we accept the current economic formulas in the world—keeping in mind that Islamic Iran does not want the defeated socialist model—we also have to accept many of the politico-economic conditions that come with it. This means that Iran will either have to bully or be bullied—which is something that Islamic Iran does not accept. It is true that many of the formulas and economic strategies currently presented, which have been recommended by economists familiar with the West, do not work and will get us nowhere. Iran needs an independent model that is unlike others and unlike all the current formulas and theories that are used in world economics at present.

If Iran does not want to fall into the labyrinth of a capitalist and Western economy, it must not rely on the world economy. Is it not true that Islamic Iran's theories in the fields of ideoloy and politics were new, energetic and powerful, presenting something new to the world? Then this is also possible in the economic arena, and it is something that must be done.

Paying attention to economic matters and makng a major issue of economic growth while weakening the values and cultural goals of the revolution is another weakness of the current government. Seeing all the country's problems from an economic viewpoint is not only unnecessary but in itself can been a danger in terms of safeguarding the basic values of the Islamic revolution. Adopting a method of pure economics, in terms of growth, lessens the same values that played a key role in the revolution's success. After the revolution it was the same values that stood the test of time in the face of the huge and dangerous waves created by the plots hatched by world aggression as well as by internal counterrevolutionaries. They safeguarded the regime and the Islamic homeland and brought the country safely through the storm. It seems that the cultural aims of the revolution are not being given the priority they deserve by the current government.

The other point that seems to be a shortcoming in this government's record is its unnecessary and incorrect trust in the views of experts. In reality a true expert does not define policy or objectives. An expert presents to policymakers various means—not just one particular path—to achieve their goals. That being the case, there are very few dedicated and exact experts in Iran. The views expressed by the experts currently presenting their views are often not proper plans. In other words, the Iranian expert is not responsible for his own expert views, which causes problems for the politicians. [passage omitted]

It we are to make use of expert views, we must introduce to the people the person responsible for each plan and project. The other point is that several experts should be consulted on the same project, and the experts should present several solutions and methods to the managers and officials.

It seems that the current government uses the opinions of only certain experts—which in itself causes problems.

One of the other obvious weaknesses of the current government is that it deals with economic issues by means of purely economic solutions. If this is not exactly wrong, it also cannot be altogether proper and will not resolve problems. Many of the country's economic problems are quite obvious, such as hoarding, high prices, smuggling, and so forth. There are also economic solutions to these issues, but alongside these economic solutions we must also try to find and use methods that are not financial. Methods such as pricing, getting rid of middlemen and the whole concept of middlemen, punishing offenders, using propaganda and cultural methods, and so forth could be more useful than a financial solution. Of course, both methods, economic and noneconomic, could complement one another and could work together to resolve the country's economic problems. Unfortunately, the current government has so far not acted in this manner. The government's actions have been geared toward the economy, and in trying to

resolve the country's monetary problems it has relied only on financial solutions, which is to be considered a weakness of government.

Alongside the lack of attention to noneconomic solutions to economic problems and the failure to use legal levers to resolve financial issues, there is also the matter of not attaching enough value to the dedicated, Muslim forces who know the meaning of pain. This is also to be considered another of the current government's weaknesses. There is now the feeling among analysts that officials have set aside those forces that are dedicated to Islam and the Islamic revolution and have instead hired experts, some of whom do not have that much belief in the Islamic revolution or Islam. Even if that is not the real intention of the head of the government or other officials, at least some of the government's actions have brought about this idea in the minds of the people—the idea that there is a tendency to favor experts as opposed to using religious, dedicated forces. Utilizing the talents of those who have at all times been among the real forces of the revolution, who have always stood for the poor, the Hezbollah and the jihad volunteers, could in itself be used as a method to strengthen the Islamic regime and advance the country toward the path of achieving the regime's lofty goals. [passage omitted]

In the fields of management and administrative issues there are still many weaknesses. Complicated methods of management and bureaucracy not only do not resolve issues, they add to the general workload, which is why it is necessary to adopt precision management methods and to change the current system. There must be an effort to avoid having the same task done twice, and the general achievements of the country's managers in government offices have to increase. There is a need to review the current methods of management, which have many faults, and there is a need for drastic, even revolutionary action in the management field. [passage omitted]

One of the other shortcomings to which the current government has to pay more attention is combating bureaucratic offenses such as obstructionism, corruption, bribery, embezzlement, and so forth in the administrative sector. It will obviously not be possible to achieve goals, policies, and plans without hard work, nor to maintain a healthy atmosphere and dedication on the part of government officials. The government's preoccupation with general policy should not mean that it fails to confront administrative offenses.

The last point is that, during all the years that this government has been in power, many cultural activities have taken place throughout the country that have not necessarily been within the framework of pure Islamic principles. It could even be said that some of the activity has presented a confusing image of the society's Islamic and revolutionary values. In general it has been put across to the public that many of the values have either been ignored or downgraded. If we are to accept that the most important principle of the Islamic revolution is its ideological and cultural values, we must also accept that the country's cultural affairs must be in the hands of the correct, Islamic, dedicated, and sympathetic people. We must also accept that we can only keep the Islamic and revolutionary spirit among the people by mentioning the revolution's values. We can keep the morale of the Muslim masses, which they have gained in the years since the revolution succeeded, by paying more attention to true Islamic culture. Unfortunately, some of the actions undertaken in the country's cultural arena by official circles make it seems as if there has been no effort in this regard, that there has been no great effort made to safeguard the basic principles.

In conclusion, we stress that it is up to the people to do as they have done in the past and increase their support for their government, which is eager to serve the people. They should move alongside the government to achieve the regime's lofty goals and to safeguard the country's interests. It is also to be hoped that the government will implement the views of the great leader and that it will be successful in achieving what is best for the country.

Bulgarian, Polish Ministers Visit on 16 Sep

View Trade Expansion With Vahaji

LD1709143592 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—Minister of Commerce 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji discussed expansion of trade and oil ties with the visiting Bulgarian and Polish ministers here today.

In his meeting with Vahaji Bulgarian Minister of Transport Aleksandur Aleksandrov urged Iranian officials to make Bulgarian traders more acquainted with the potential of Iranian markets and sign bilateral trade agreements.

Vahaji in reply referred to importance of transportation in the expansion of Tehran-Sofia trade cooperation, and termed bilateral commercial relations as 'improving'. He expressed hope that minor obstacles in the way of trade exchanges between the two countries would be removed.

Aleksandrov arrived in Tehran on Sunday to participate in the Irano-Bulgarian Joint Economic Commission.

Later in the day Vahaji met Polish minister of trade [as received], Andrzej Arendarski and said Iran was ready to provide Poland with its raw material needs and increase export of the non-oil commodities to that country.

Arendarski said that last year Iran ranked second on Poland's list of oil exporters, supplying his country with 2.1 million tons of oil.

He said Polish firms were ready to sell ships, construction machinary, chemical substances, yarns, power installations and help build subways.

Arendarski, heading an eco-industrial delegation, arrived in Tehran today at the invitation of the Ministry of Commerce to participate in the Irano-Polish Joint Commission.

Bulgaria's Aleksandrov Meets Velayati

LD1809083992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Mr. Aleksandrov, the Bulgarian transportation minister and president of the Iranian-Bulgarian Joint Commission, met with Foreign Minister Velayati and described Bulgaria's internal and external policies after the fall of communism, and he said: Respecting the religious rights of all individuals, especially Muslims, in Bulgaria is one of our policy's priorities.

Referring to the catastrophe of Muslim slaughter in Bosnia-Hercegovina and expressing concern over the bloodshed, he called for the more serious presence of international organizations for the early resolution of the crisis.

During the meeting, Velayati expressed the hope that both countries' ties in the future expand further through joint efforts.

Referring to the inappropriate approach of the former Communist government regarding Bulgarian Muslims, he expressed appreciation for the policy of respecting the rights of minorities in Bulgaria.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

LD1809084392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Iran and Bulgaria signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of economic cooperation and an agreement for offering reciprocal services in the Merchant Marine.

Iranian and Bulgarian cooperation documents were signed by the minister of roads and transport, Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, and the Bulgarian transportation minister, Mr. Aleksandrov, at the end of the eighth session of the Iranian-Bulgarian Joint Commission in Tehran this evening.

After signing the documents, Sa'idi-Kia told our correspondent: Both countries' memorandum of understanding specifies the framework of cooperation in transport, commercial and banking affairs, industry and agriculture, and in scientific, technical, and research cooperation.

On the same subject, the Bulgarian head of the Iranian-Bulgarian Joint Commission said: The memorandum of understanding delineates the main lines and the framework of expanding ties between both countries. He added: Finding a new method of payment for both countries' commercial exchanges to replace the barter method of exchange—which formerly existed between Iran and Bulgaria—is one of the most important issues raised during the Tehran session.

Poland's Arendarski, Nezhad-Hoseynian Meet

LD1709152892 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—Polish minister of trade [as received], Andrzej Arendarski discussed upgrading of industrial ties with Iranian Heavy Industries Minister Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian today.

Darecky arrived here earlier today at the head of a high-ranking delegation to attend the Tehran-Warsaw Joint Commission.

The Iranian Minister recalled the last joint industrial commission of the two countries as "very useful," and touched on areas of technological cooperation in various fields, especially in design engineering and building of vessels at shipyards in Iran's Caspian province of Mazandaran.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD1809024192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Based on a commercial protocol, Iran and Poland will cooperate in commercial and technical fields and exchanging technology.

Following the protocol's signing in Tehran this evening, Polish Trade Minister [as heard] Andrzej Arendarski was interviewed by our correspondent. He referred to the growing trend of both countries' ties in all fields, particularly in technical and economic fields. He said that Poland wishes to participate in Iran's reconstruction programs.

Iranian Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji said: The current volume of both countries' transactions amount to 500 million U.S. dollars annually. He added: Based on the signed protocol, the outstanding bilateral payment accounts will be settled, and from now on, both countries' transactions will be executed on a hard-currency basis.

Iran and Poland will also cooperate in the fields of transportation and oil and gas industries. Iran will purchase a number of commercial ships from Poland in the near future, and 5 million tonnes of oil will be exported to Poland during the next year.

IRNA, IRIB To Open Offices in Kabul

LD1709165992 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA—Afghan Minister of Information and Culture Mohammad Siddique Chakri today called for the Islamic Republic's support to help Afghanistan with its reconstruction affairs.

Chakri, interviewed by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), agreed to allow IRNA and IRIB to open their bureaus in Kabul and said his government was also ready to set up the Afghan news centre in Tehran in case of the Iranian officials' approval. According to Chakri, Kabul Television, which was closed during the internecine clashes, resumed its broadcast last night and screened IRIB films and serials.

He said that Afghans, in view of their religious bonds with Iranians, prefer watching Iranian films which were not in contradiction with the Islamic principles. He estimated the damages inflicted by the recent clashes in Kabul on the Afghan media and publications at about dlrs 20 billion and disclosed that several Persian, Pashtu and English dailies and periodicals will appear on the news stands next week.

The official, in conclusion, called for Iran's final approval of the bilateral cultural agreements to enable the Afghan media to receive IRIB programmes via land receivers.

Daily: U.S. Applying Pressure Over Central Asia

LD1709124892 Tehran IRNA in English 1104 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday noted that Iran's diplomatic initiatives, especially in paving the way for regional cooperation with the newly independent Central Asian Republics, have further prompted the U.S. to exert more pressures on revolutionary Iran.

ABRAR, in a commentary, wrote that the U.S. held the idea that such pressures should be continued as long as Iran had not surrendered to them.

However, the article added, the Iranian nation and statesmen knew well that since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution they had to confront many enemies, headed by the U.S.

"To this end, they would take steps, in an uncompromising manner, for the revival of revolutionary Islam and would not yield to the will of the hegemonist powers," the daily added.

It stressed that the recent instigations which had been master- minded against Iran in Jeddah, Doha and Ankara had a point in common—the U.S. and nothing more.

Turkish Interior Minister's Visit Viewed

LD1809081192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1001 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Unattributed political commentary entitled: "The Turkish Interior Minister's Visit to Iran"]

[Excerpts] The Turkish interior minister, heading a military security delegation, visited Iran. Turkey's gendarmerie commander, police, and a number of high-ranking security officials accompanied Turkish Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin. [passage omitted]

Among Iran's eastern and western neighbors, the length of the border she shares with Turkey is less than the others. But due to a decade or more worth of disturbances stemming from Kurdish insurrections that continued in seven Turkish eastern and southern provinces, this has led to insecurity on the borders.

The Turkish Government has previously accused Syria and, lately, Iran, of giving refuge or turning a blind eye to the activities of the Kurdish Workers' Party. The Turkish Government says that its armed forces of that party—which has been raising the banner of combat against the Turkish central government for sometime now—are in the habit of fleeing to Iran when they clash with Turkey's military and security forces. These positions have been consistently refuted by responsibile Iranian officials. Iran considers itself as one of the victims of terrorism. Noting the economic reconstruction policy and the outcomes of the eight-year war with Iraq, it is not prepared to give refuge to active armed groups. This is at a time when Turkey is itself a recognized base for terrorist groups and opponents of the Islamic Republic of Iran who have turned that country into a base for their activities in the region and in Iran.

On the other hand, Turkey has, from ancient times, been one of the land routes linking Iran with Europe, via which Iranian and European goods and services used to be exchanged. In recent months, however, the obstructions of Turkey's customs officials, law enforcement forces, and courts, have unsettled these exchanges. Heading the list of these kinds of pressures, one could point to the impounding of the Cape Maleas ship and its cargo. Although the interior minister of Turkey has on several occasions said that that ship will be released, it is not clear whether the latest promise given by the interior minister of Turkey will meet the same fate as previous ones.

In addition to the problems, which have existed in any case, in relations between Iran and Turkey, unfortunately Turkey's newspapers, radio, and television, by issuing lies and vile things, have harmed goodwill in mutual relations. Of course, bearing in mind the influence of international Zionism in a large number of Turkish press and publications, it is not surprising that these newspapers should be trying to strain relations between Iran and Turkey.

In any case, Turkey's interior minister was given a warm welcome in Tehran, and it is hoped that the understandings and agreements reached may eliminate existing difficulties in practice and strengthen mutual friendship in the very unsettled Middle East region.